■ SPORTS / A29
Viloria keeps WBC light fly title

■ NEWS / A4
Edsa docu: Gringo didn't have People Power in mind

■ BUSINESS / B1
HSBC's fearless forecast: P47.50 to $1

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-8
Funny 'Mega Valentine'

## Amsterdam hookers hold red light district 'open house'

AMSTERDAM'S FAMED red light district held its first ever "open day" on Saturday as its peep shows and brothels gave crowds of wide-eyed onlookers free entry to help shed the area's increasingly negative reputation. Armed with a set of 25

PHILIPPINE DAILY
# INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEW

Monday, February 20, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 74 P18

**FORWARDED** text message from the rubble: "Ma'am, we are still under the school. Please help us, ma'am. This is Eddie Cargallo. Please ma'am."
(Story, Section)

# Faint sign of life in buried school

## Rescuers hear scratching, raise hopes for over 200 pupils

By Volt Contreras, Vicente Labro and Jaxi Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

ST. BERNARD, Southern Leyte—Rescuers racing against time said yesterday they heard "scratches" indicating signs of life apparently coming from a schoolhouse buried in a landslide with over 200 children and teachers inside it.

The Guinsugon Elementary School (GES) in this town had been the emotional focus of search and rescue operations after a deadly avalanche of mud and rocks swamped Barangay Guinsugon and buried close to 2,000 people. Many of the villagers were found killed.

"It went on for more than a minute. It was like a chirp of metal being scratched," noncommissioned Lt. Fred Esguerra, a member of the Philippine Coast Guard search

SAINT SHIPS A11

THE LONG ANXIOUS WAIT For worried onlookers, the waiting is what is killing these survivors of the landslide as they stand behind the rope while rescuers do the arduous work of finding survivors and recovering the dead. So far rescuers have found no survivors.
ROBIN MADRILO

## Officials warn of more disasters

By Luige A. del Puerto

UNLESS AN EARLY WARNING system is set up to advise people living in flood- and landslide-prone areas, a disaster similar to what took place in St. Bernard town in Southern Leyte could hit the country's eastern seaboard again, the defense department warned yesterday.

"Over the next four months, there is the danger that this flooding and landslide will happen again ... These flood-prone and landslide-prone areas could be hit," Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. said.

The eastern seaboard refers to provinces that lie near the Philippine Sea and Pacific Ocean. They include Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Aurora, Quezon, the Bicol provinces, Samar and Leyte islands, Surigao and Agusan provinces and Davao Oriental.

Once La Niña comes, these areas would be the hardest hit, according to Dr. Graciano Yumul, chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astro-

DISASTERS A10

STARTING TODAY, WE BEGIN OUR SERIES ON EDSA I IN CELEBRATION of the 20th anniversary of those four days in February 1986 when we Filipinos revolted on a stretch of highway, and right there and then ousted the Marcos dictatorship without a single shot being fired, without a drop of blood being shed. We simply stunned the world, and inspired revolutions, Filipino style, in all nations still yearning to be free.

All credit goes to the Filipino people. Which is why we had asked them to write in their own personal stories of Edsa I, big and small, untold and retold (*See below*), because Edsa I, also known as the "real and only" Edsa, truly belongs to the Filipinos. Which is why it is also called the People Power Revolt.

It is also called a miracle. As if it were not miracle enough that the Filipinos after 14 years of strongman rule suddenly found their voice and the guts to regain their freedom. But they would be the first to shout it from the rooftops of the world that they did not do it alone. For, you see, in this Christian country, all the saints came marching in, too, led by the Blessed Virgin Mother borne on the shoulders of her flock.

To get an idea of the big picture, we also present what was happening on the other side of the Pasig River—Malacañang Palace—written by eyewitnesses to the last days of the crumbling Marcos empire. And the historic portrait would not be complete without a glimpse of the military's critical role in the downfall of Marcos. Except that it was probably the first time that "the protector of the people" was in fact being protected and saved by the warm bodies of the people at Edsa.

The series is dedicated to the 20somethings (about 52 million of you guys out there) who have no memory of our gloriously recent past. This memory is a treasurable feast. Carry it with you wherever you go as a badge of honor and pride of being Filipino. *LIM*

### THE PEOPLE

## Rage with a heart

By Benjamin Vallejo Jr.
*(The writer is assistant professor in the UP College of Science.)*

THE EARLY AND MID 1980S WERE significant for many of us, what fellow congener Jessica Zafra called the Velten V generation. Those times coincided with our entry to adulthood and political maturity and the phenomenal rise of Japanese Anime.

In 1983, we were junior high school students who were on a field trip for our mythology class. On this rather unremarkable Aug. 21, we boxed on the way back to Manila that Benigno (Ninoy) Aquino had been shot!

Six years before, as grade three kids, my Araling Panlipunan (Social Studies) teacher asked us if Aquino was a bad man. The class responded "yes." This was at the height of martial law. And our teacher said, "Oh my poor martial law babies."

But on that August day, we knew who Aquino was, but were quite busy on the freedom he was going to lay down his life for.

BAGA A23

### THE MILITARY

## 'I chose to be there'

By Angelo T. Reyes
*(The writer is now DENR secretary.)*

I WAS A FULL COLONEL IN THE ARMED Forces assigned as a senior military assistant to Prime Minister Cesar Virata on Feb. 22, 1986.

Right there and then, I knew I had to make a personal decision whether to join the rebel forces or to align myself in defense of an administration that had lost the moral ascendancy to govern after stealing the results of the 1986 election.

As senior vice president of the AFP-RSBS (Retirement, Separation Benefits System) at the time, I was not in command of any combat unit then. Thus, I knew that whatever I chose to do would not in any way decide the outcome of the very tense standoff and the fate of the Filipino nation.

Oh how wrong I was to think that way! Mistakes because if every single person who went to Edsa thought of how inconsequential one man's contribution could be, then there would not have been a throng of people in and around Camp Crame and

I CHOSE A23

### THE PALACE

## Where's makeup artist?

By Fernando del Mundo

NO SHOT HAD YET BEEN FIRED, BUT when Hermie Rivera faced the wrong end of an assault rifle in the Palace corridor he thought he would be the first casualty of the 1986 People Power revolution.

Rivera's confrontation with the Gold-wielding son of President Ferdinand Marcos followed his father's decision to go on national television to reassure the world he would not smash the rebels.

A trusted press officer with full access to the inner Palace sanctum, Rivera had arranged for Marcos' television address hours after Washington had warned of dire consequences if the President mounted an offensive.

Ferdinand Marcos Jr., nicknamed Bongbong, had opposed his father's decision to air the second day of the breakaway by rebel forces Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Gen. Fidel Ramos, the Armed Forces deputy chief of staff.

PHIBBS A23

**WEATHER FORECAST**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# Second FRONTPAGE

# Bomb found at PMA after rites

By Vincent Cabreza
INQ7.net North Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE MILITARY IS INVESTIGATING the reported discovery of a bomb at the Philippine Military Academy on Saturday night amid fresh rumors of a destabilization plot against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The explosive device, loaded with about 2 kg of TNT, was found by members of 986th military police unit hidden in a sketch bag at the PMA grandstand, hours after the coup plot was reported.

A PMA official said the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) had started investigating how the bag containing the TNT could have been left at the grandstand.

The explosive was turned over to Isafp agents here by PMA officials, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Reports about the bomb circulated around Baguio at 10 p.m. Saturday but PMA officials denied a bomb had been found on the academy's premises.

Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano, Philippine Army chief of staff, said the report that was initially released by Reuters.

"Meh, mali ang nga reports (There are all wrong reports)," he said in a telephone interview on Sunday.

"We have no knowledge of any [bomb found at the grandstand]," said Col. Romulo Hipe-macruz, 986th spokesperson.

The homecoming, which was attended by more than 1,000 classmates and their families, drew attention last week after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez revealed that the reunion would be the springboard for a new coup attempt.

Romualdez based his information on a document called "Oplan Bubble" that was supposedly recovered from the locker of an unidentified cadet.

The military and police top brass and government officials attended the homecoming.

Senate floor leader Francis Pangilinan said they were informed about the supposed discovery of the bomb.

"If the report is true, the PMA also has its own explosives disposal unit, so it can best determine [the device's] explosive power to be used for a rescue attack]," he said.

Reyes, a member of PMA "Maniwilad" Class 1994, was instrumental to secure the solidarity during the reunion rites Saturday.

Lt. Col. Antonio Trillanes IV, a bomb which would have been intended for then President Corazon Aquino, who was in power that year's graduation rites, exploded at the PMA grandstand, killing four and injuring 47 others.

PMA officials and alumni had described the bombing as a deliberate act of land mines field, where alumni homecoming parades are traditionally held.

Earlier this week, Reuters, quoting two senior generals, reported the details of a plot to stage and possibly assassinate Mr Arroyo.

The plan involved the team escape of mutineers originally set for January, hostage taking at the weekend gathering of military officers and the removal Mr Arroyo from office.

Talk of a plot by some elements of the military has been spreading since the escape from an army camp in the province of Pampanga of the Magdalo group of mutineers who staged a one-day mutiny in Makati City in July 2003.

With Reuters

# Elite PNP unit denies hand in plot

By Lilge A. del Puerto

THE CHIEF OF AN ELITE COMbat unit of the Philippine National Police yesterday vowed to cleanse any stigma to destabilize the Arroyo administration even as he denied rumors that his men were involved in any such plots.

The PNP Special Action Force "will clarify any action by any group that poses a threat to the state and to disrupt the national awareness and functions of government," SAF Chief Supt. Marcelino Pinpin Jr. assured.

The SAF is the most seasoned fighting unit of the police. Last week, it stormed a jail in Bicutan, Taguig City, where Idm Ampatuan Jr., Tatoy Sinsuat and other suspects in the Maguindanao massacre were detained.

"It is my humble capacity as director of the PNP-SAF once and for all in order to clear the opportunities of the public...I categorically deny any involvement of my unit in any unlawful or unauthorized action outside of the chain of command," Pinpin said.

"The PNP-SAF is a professional police unit. We will never engage in any action beyond our mandate to enforce the law, to maintain peace and order, and to defend the Constitution, against enemies of the state," he said.

Early this year, an intelligence officer disclosed that people making to destabilize the government had appointed several police commanders, including at least one official of the PNP-SAF, to take over in the PNP-SAF unless those into breaking the chain of command.

But they were rebutted by the commanders, the intelligence officer said.

Pinpin said his men were all accounted for.

"All SAF units are under the effective control of responsible and honorable officers with proven integrity and unquestionable loyalty," he said, adding that the PNP-SAF's "solidarity as a fighting unit is indivisible."

According to Pinpin, SAF had fought countless battles in the lawless campaigns against groups making boundary of the country's laws, including those seeking to wrest control of the government.

# Ermita, Bunye to face senators today over budgets

By Tj Burgonio

MALACAÑANG OFFICIALS, EXECutive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, are still appearing before the Senate budget hearing on the P1.020-trillion 2006 budget, to date slightly of some senators.

Ermita and Bunye had continued their attendance at the Senate committee of the whole hearing on the budgets of the Office of the President and the Office of the Press Secretary, a committee staff member said.

"It augurs well for our country...sound democracies and for our citizens," Minority Leader Francis Pangilinan said.

"It's good for our work. We can continue doing our inquiry. We'll be able to question those officials on how they disposed of the money allocated to them in the previous year," Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said in an interview.

The attendance of the two Cabinet members comes a week after Senate hostilities erupted between Malacañang and the Senate over Executive Order No. 464, which removes among the Supreme Court to stop Presidential Management Bureau from enforcing the order.

The issue row was triggered by the non-appearance of Ranjo and officials of the Department of Interior and Local Government at the Senate budget hearing on Feb. 8. The officials had invoked EO 464.

The order bars administration officials from appearing in congressional hearings without the President's approval. It has been a major flashpoint for confrontation between the two branches of government since September.

Sen. Sotto Senate, for his part, said he would question Ermita and other government officials on why they allowed the National Power Corp. to pay its officers and employees some P12 billion in separation pay in 2005 and thereafter.

"Why did they not question it?" he said in an interview.

Pimentel, however, said the appearance of Ms Arroyo's top Cabinet men at the budget hearings "were not good enough," indicating that she broke EO 464.

"While Ebdia appears to be loosening up, the might tighten up soon there around. It's we can't say still's well that ends well," he said. "Unless she repeals EO 464, it will be by force stating that we're doing things according to the Constitution."

Pangilinan said the Cabinet men's presence at the hearing would not in any way affect the urgent motion filed by 17 senators on Feb. 14 asking the right of Israel to resolve their application for a TRO against EO 464.

# After Garci, House set to probe gov't agencies

By Michael Lim Ubac

AFTER ITS CELEBRATED PET fashion "Hello Garci" interrogation inquiry, the House of Representatives is buckling down to work, preparing to investigate cadre-performing government agencies.

The House oversight committee on government enterprises, chaired by Rep. Mark Mendoza of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) which had incurred heavy losses, delivering its mandate to provide financial assistance to distressed banks, according to Mendoza Mahoney Sinsuat Pangilinan Pimentel Jr.

The Committee on Oversight combines the oversight committee chair, Nico Tondo Sumit, had scheduled the inquiry for next week.

Aquino del Rio Sen. Pangilinan Friday Jr also asked the House committee on oversight to look into to investigate the Department of Budget and Management's role in building our government procurement contracts from textbooks and Armed Forces supplies to hospital equipment by virtue of a Supreme Court decision.

Pichay said the joint congressional committee on the Government Procurement Reform Act (Republic Act No. 9184) should check whether the setup was consistent with the law, which commissioned by the act, which mandates the "procuring agency" to conduct the bidding and issue of the notice of award through its Bids and Awards Committee.

The 1986, which releases the funds, cannot influence the choice of the winning bidder, for it be accused of conflict of interest, according to Pichay.

On the PDIC's financial mess, Negrito said the oversight committee also wanted to find out if the agency should be abolished.

"Should the PDIC and its charter be amended or should it be [because eligible] is the government?" he said.

Negrito endorsed the results from Dbd by Rep. Bernadette Herrera of Batangas urging Congress to look into the current financial condition of the PDIC.

At a rate, PDIC sources the bank it bank to reimburse banks by borrowing from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

The Bilateralism resolution cited a Commission on Audit report in December 2004 that said loans extended by the BSP to PDIC amounted to P68.714 billion (almost two-thirds of the BSP's outstanding loan portfolio of P114.48 billion), which represent 64 percent of the outstanding liabilities of PDIC.

In the same report, Negrito added that the BSP was losing P1.1 billion yearly as a result of unprofitable loans to the PDIC in the bailout of problematic banks.

"I'm urging us to immediate investigation of the PDIC's management of funds and why BSP has too much financial exposure to PDIC," he said.

# Cha-cha backers risk people's ire – solons

By TJ Burgonio

GOVERNMENT LEADERS BENT ON CONVERTING Congress into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution without the Senate were sending the "wrath of the people," Senate Minority Leader Francis Pangilinan warned yesterday.

Pangilinan advised Charter change proponents to think "long and hard" before pushing ahead with the "disputable move" to amend the 1987 Constitution "employing patently illegal means."

The senator said the progression of Cha-cha never "clicked wrong" to think that Filipinos were "so dumb as to meekly swallow this latest arrogance and senseless manuevers."

"They are courting the wrath of a people tired of decades of self-serving political maneuvers by brazen (traditional) politicians. They are setting up the hustle the people's patience on this one and the people's response may come as a shock to those arrogant power wielders," he said.

Pangilinan was reacting to disclosures by incoming Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno that the pro-administration Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party had so far gathered 110 signatures of lawmakers to get Congress to convene itself into a constituent assembly.

Speaker Jose de Venecia (snatched last week a campaign to gather 195 signatures of "all members" of Congress," setting aside, to convene the Senate and the House into a constituent assembly to change the Charter.

He said the constitutional provision authorizing the revision of the Constitution by a three-fourths vote of all members of Congress was "very clear, there's no room for ambiguity."

The Senate said that only a majority of both chambers, voting separately, could convene Congress into a constituent assembly to amend the Charter.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. said there was no need for senators to challenge the Jabidah deforestation, once it was completed, before the Supreme Court.

"Let them gather 1 million signatures until they're blue, it will not amount to anything. Nothing plus nothing equals nothing," he said.

**HOT FUNNY**
Hundreds of Muslims hold a torch rally on Saturday at Mahatika Village in Tagaig City to protest the satirical cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad that were published by a Danish newspaper last year. Last week, Muslims held a protest on Ayala Avenue in front of the Danish Embassy in Makati over the cartoons that have caused the ire of followers of Islam worldwide. AP/L.JOYA


It's 0% interest on all items* with Citibank PayLite.

0%

PayLite
INSTALLMENT PLAN

Available at

ABENSON ELECTROWORLD

Promo ends March 19, 2006.

PayLite

citibank


# Piracy worth ₱1.3B

THE GOVERNMENT ANTI-piracy agency said yesterday it would step up the drive against copyright violators so its industry study showed that reduced software piracy alone could raise up to ₱1.3 billion in taxes for the government and generate some 2,000 new jobs.

Ideas: A Unlimited L., director general of the Intellectual Property Office, said the revenue shortage by the United States to name the Philippines from its priority watch list was recognition of the government's efforts to protect intellectual property rights.

Still, the Office of the US Trade Representative said the Philippines needed to take stronger improvement-off the list of countries cited for inadequate protection for managing computer software, movies, music books and apparel.

Unlimited outline of the would undertake measures to ensure that gains made in protecting intellectual property rights would translate to economic and social benefits.

Reynal W. Domingo


For Spotless and Blemish-Free Skin

A Blemish Eraser That Really *Works!*

Picture-perfect skin can now be a reality with IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment. No other procedure has ever been developed that can accomplish so much with so little risk and discomfort.

Actress Lea Salonga has used Thermage also.

One satisfied client, Janet Ley, relates her happiness with IPL: "I like it. I really like it because after only my second treatment, my freckles are gone!"

IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment helps banish freckles, dark spots, and spider veins without a scar. According to Janet, "I believe my freckles became more prominent as I got older. So whenever I went out of the house, I would use face powder to cover them up. But now I don't use anything anymore because they're all gone! And now people would tell me that I have really nice, flawless skin."

IPL is a gentle, non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to treat the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere that sun damage or blemishes show. It uses the Intense Pulsed Light technology to correct a variety of skin conditions and skin imperfections: freckles, skin discoloration, signs of ageing, age spots, unsightly spider veins, broken capillaries, rosacea and other blemishes. Facial Care Centre's Dr. Maria Isabella Ivra says, "IPL's amazing results include: better skin tone, reduced blotchiness, pigmentation and broken blood vessels, smoother surface texture, and a more youthful-looking skin."

To restore an overall youthful look, IPL can simultaneously treat a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It erases skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's surface unlike other conventional

Dr. Joyce performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

treatments. As another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres, would attest: "I'm an avid golfer so I'm very much exposed to the sun. That's how I had freckles. And I've tried every whitening product you can possibly think of: whitening cream, whitening lotion, sunblock, scrub. I even bought this thing from Hong Kong that you're supposed to drink to lighten your skin...nothing! It lightens up your skin for a while but you can't expose yourself to the sun anymore. And for avid players like me, that's totally unthinkable! So when I tried IPL, I was really impressed. Just after the first treatment, there were already visible

Another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres.

dramatic results! IPL is really the only treatment that worked for me."

Dr. Maria Isabella Ivra with her IPL machine.

Like Dr. Torres and Janet Ley, many satisfied clients have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles, and other skin discolorations. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have busy, even tested, glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day, as if nothing happened at all!

Now isn't this the best news for your skin?

To know more about IPL Photorejuvenation, just call Facial Care Centre at

**892-SKIN.** That's 892-7546.

Tough, sleek and fast.

Canon

# Edsa docu: Gringo et al. didn't think of People Power

By Fe Zamora

REBEL TROOPS HAD PLANNED TO ATTACK Malacañang sometime between Dec. 20 and 28, 1985, but the plan was postponed after Presidential Marcos announced the holding of snap elections.

The assault on Malacañang was sent for Feb. 25, 1986, about two weeks after the Feb. 7 snap polls. But Marcos got wind of the plan a day before the attack, sending the rebels scampering for safety.

Faced with possible arrest, they thought of going underground, and executing a plan like was against Marcos another option was to run back to Camp Aguinaldo.

"It was basically a military plan, but didn't have an idea of people power," said former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan in an account of the aborted coup plot that developed into the Edsa People Power Revolution from Feb. 22 to 25, 1986.

Honasan gave his account of the historic People Power Revolution in the 45-minute video documentary by the Inquirer, "Edsa 20: Isang Lansangan," to be shown at 10:30 tonight on ABC television.

Honasan's rebel top role was to lead some 30 soldiers to assault The Palace "to control the situation ... to control Malacañang and its occupants, and prevent Dot Marcos and to the people else," he said.

## Fair fight

At about the same time, he said, some 200 rebel soldiers to be led by then Lt. Col. Eduardo "Red" Kapunan and the late Lt. Col. Rolando Aguinaldo would seize the Palace grounds to support the 30-man commando team.

The rebels would have found some 2,500 loyalist troops guarding the Palace. "It would have been a fair fight. After all, we were on the side of truth, we were doing the right thing," Honasan said.

The assault was set for 3 a.m. of Sunday, Feb. 23. But an impending crackdown on the suspected plotters forced a change of plans. Then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and then AFP vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos still have support from Marcos. They also appealed for public support.

One of those who responded to the call was Bert Aquino, brother of the late Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and leader of the Aug. 21, 1983 Parliament (Senate), but with the latter's boycott Enrile and Ramos were forgotten allies of Marcos, Aquino said.

Aquino said he even reminded former Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma.

HONASAN

"When she said, 'God be with you,' I took that to mean 'go ahead with your plans,'" he said. By midnight, he said, tens of thousands of Filipinos had massed at the premises of Edsa between Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame.

Among those in the crowd were nuns, seminarians and students. Ed Lingao of the University of the Philippines and Jil Paul since Sister Peng Gonzales and Sister Teresita Bautista were among the thousands who blocked the military tanks in Ortigas, and lived to tell their story.

Gonzales and Bautista they were about to return to their convent when the crowd asked them to stay because there were tanks coming their way. Faced with the tanks, the two confided the crowd in praying the rosary.

"They told we should stay to love because we had no families," Gonzales said, laughing at how they reached the heart of the tanks.

She said she was overwhelmed by the huge power of moral in front of her. "I looked in the tubards, and I imagined how they would feel against my body. I'd look like a flattened banana. I also prayed, if my sacrifice was to die for the love for nation, so be it," she said.

Broadcaster Jose Mukhby, who manned the underground Radyo Bandido, said she also felt impending death. The rebel station was actually located only about two kilometers from Malacañang. She said she was told that if worst came, they were ordered to kill her.

"I thought that there was a big chance that I would die," she said.

Seibbler said she even received a telephone call from a woman who told her she would be killed. But she steeled herself for the worst.

The Inquirer video documentary airs an hour-long interview with Inquirer PDI Journalist JP Bonia, who covered the Malacañang beat, composer/singer Jim Paredes, singer/actress Gabe Mercado, and retired Maj. Gen. William Hotchkiss.

# Another landslide, this time in Zambo, kills 5 illegal miners

By Michael Lim Sarcaga
*Mindanao Bureau*

HEAVY RAINS TRIGGERED AN other landslide this time in Zamboanga del Sur, killing illegal miners.

Five people were killed and one was injured when a landslide struck a community in a gold-rich area in Bayog town on Tuesday night.

Bayog Mayor Mary Ann Cuenta said their houses in the small-scale mining area in Sitio Imbulog in Barangay Dipore were buried in mud at around 7:30 p.m.

The bodies of the victims were dug up at least 12 hours after the landslide.

Military, police and local officials said they found missing persons, which is 17 kilometers from the town proper. A resident in Bayog said one must cross a river five times on the way to this mining.

Carrido said mining financier Eric Sumandang, who was one of those killed, had earlier warned the others to leave the area after noticing a crack in the ground they were digging.

Sumandang's warning came too late as the rumbling of mountains, which claimed Sumandang and Adriano Retiro, and two laborers named Jhodong and Antong.

Mother Song escaped with a minor injury, the mayor said.

Carrido said the miners, who were operating illegally, have constructed houses and a gold milling facility.

"Buildings were used to house the rush they earned where they lived in the dogs, but it gave way to the mountain and covered the rail," the mayor said.

Town Councilor Celso Mamo said illegal miners had been operating in the area since 1994.

In Tacna Ortiwad, residents fled their homes in Sitio Igbo in Barangay Talisay in Tacurgan town when a "erroneous slide" movement of a relatively small (slide mass) struck the village two weeks ago.

Cassandra Lugo, Office of Civil Defense (OCD) director for Southern Mindanao, said 104 families left their homes while 95 houses were damaged by the slide.

"There was no structural damage that was all houses, whether made of concrete or wood, in its path were destroyed," Lugo said. De Guzman.

As early as Feb. 4 residents detected the cracks, which "became bigger on Feb. 8 and 9," he said.

The cracks ranged from a foot to a meter wide.

Barangay Talisay is at least 7 km away from the Tacurgan town center.

Some of the evacuees have returned to their homes but some have been staying with relatives living in nearby Sitio Igbo at night, the OCD said.

Lugo told Tacurgan Mayor Samuel Uy and other municipal and provincial officials met with the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences on Feb. 14 and recommended that residents be transferred to a safer place.

"The place (Barangay Talisay) is not fit for residential purposes anymore," Lugo said.

Tacurgan Vice Mayor Jenny was placed at Pls. 2 and 6m.

## Two weeks of heavy rains

In Tinaling, Sarigaya del Sur, the provincial disaster coordinating council (PDCC) warned residents living near the river to leave their homes if the heavy rains disturb the province for two weeks and lasted.

PDCC chief Florencio Pimentel Jr. said landslides could occur anytime to the occurrence of rain.

"The mountain slopes are now heavy with water and the soil is soft as a result of the recurrent downpour," Pimentel said.

In recent years, landslides hit the mountainous chains of mountains of Tampakan Clan [illegible] reports from Jonelle Ranillo and Bert Pascua; PDI Mindanao Bureau

# BOC works to fix image

THE HEAD OF CUSTOMS WILL SOON FILE [illegible] cases against suspected smugglers in a bid to prove its commitment to tackling illegal activities, Commissioner Napoleon Morales has said.

Morales disclosed the move in a recent meeting with the American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Amcham) where he vowed to enhance the integrity of the bureau, according to a statement.

"We need your help in the BOC (as only) we need with close coordination and cooperation with the private sector, especially the foreign businessmen, in the country," Morales told Amcham.

He said the BOC would be signing a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor General to facilitate the prosecution of cases against suspected smugglers.

Bernardo Umali, BOC legal service director, said in a separate statement the bureau would be increasing its pool of lawyers to handle the cases to be filed under the Run After The Smugglers (RATS) program initiated by the Department of Finance.

The BOC is also expected to come out soon with the results of its investigation into the illegal activities of its own personnel.

Morales ordered the probe and the tackling of the list of suspected smugglers after being grilled in a Senate hearing for the proliferation of smuggling. The names of several suspected smugglers were revealed at the hearing and Morales vowed to have them investigated. **Leila B. Salaverria**


SLIMMERS WORLD
THE ULTIMATE IN FITNESS, SKIN & BODY TREATMENTS

A FORMULA THAT FIGHTS THE VISIBLE SIGNS OF FAT & CELLULITE

GREAT CASH SAVINGS!!! NO JOINING FEES!!!

ONLY P45* PER DAY

BODY, SKIN & FACE by SLIMMERS WORLD
PERSONAL TRAINING
POWER STRETCHING
NUTRITIONAL ADVICE

FREE DANCE AEROBICS

5 FREE PERSONAL TRAINING SLOTS

BODY METRICS will BURN FAT.
LOSE 10 to 50 inches or more from here, here, here, here

FACE, SKIN & BODY MONTH

MESOTHERAPY
PASSIVE SLIMMING

Diamond Ultrapeel Hot Masque
Skin Whitening Body Former
Permanent Laser Hair Removal

OTHER TREATMENTS
• MESOTHERAPY • AQUASOL • BUTRACELL FACE
• BESTYLANE • LASER ACNE TREATMENT
• PERLANE • WART REMOVAL • FACIAL

GREAT CASH SAVINGS!!! 60%

*SAVINGS APPLY TO FULL PROGRAMMES.

FITNESS & SKIN HOTLINE 8873533 MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS (7546377)

CALL US
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG Gemmal/Wendy 809-0396
BINONDO Thelma/Janelah 242-1212
CALOOCAN Roda/Alice 365-7653
CEBU Lolae/Cheryn 231-1058
GREENHILLS Fleanor/Jany 726-6581
LEGASPI VILL Lanie/Jonah 893-6835
MALATE Daisy/Mhaya 536-8919
MEGAMALL Sonia/Maureen 631-3869
PASAY RD Cherl/Ellen 887-1335
Pasay Rd cellphone 0917/8159820
PAYAS Lenie/Irma 681-5333
SM NORTH Nikki 920-5420
SUBIC Sandy/Precy 252-4314
TRIANGULAR Anna 814-0138
MAIN CENTER HOTLINES: ALABANG [illegible] BINONDO [illegible] CALOOCAN [illegible] GREENHILLS [illegible] MALATE [illegible] MEGAMALL [illegible] PASAY RD. [illegible]

Your money has better things to do.

It can, for instance, earn you more money when you invest it in an exceptional financial package, like

milestones

Milestones is Philamlife's newest life insurance product that lets you enjoy your money in more ways than one.

[illegible]

Let your money actively work for you as you live life to the fullest. Avail of Philamlife's Milestones today. For more information, call 528-3000.

The Philam Group of Companies offers you a full range of financial services: Life and General Insurance • Property and Casualty Insurance • Health Care Management • Pre-Need Plans • Banking • Mutual Funds • Property Development • Credit Cards • Business Process Outsourcing • Reinsurance • Financial Advisory Services

PHILAM LIFE
Are You Ready for Life?

528-3000
www.philam.com

ATTN . . . HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

MFI

A LEADER IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Accepts applicants for 3-year courses in:

Electrical Technology*
Electronics Technology*
Instrumentation Technology*
Tool & Die Technology*

2-year course in:
Information Technology

Scholarship grants available

FOR INQUIRIES, YOU MAY CALL
MFI (Manila's Foundation, Inc.)
Industrial Technician Program
MFI Bldg., Ortigas Avenue Pasig City
632-0756 - 65 (TL)
633-3625; 631-3852 (DL)
www.mfi.org.ph
e-mail: isd@mfi.org.ph

Deadline for application: March 30, 2006

All courses are TESDA accredited
*Partnership with TUP in its degree programs

Enriching minds . . . Transforming lives

# 'RP could lure 30% of call center seats'

IF FACTORIES OF THE PAST could be reinvented, to cut "the numbers of the 21st century"—call centers.

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines said the Philippines could secure as many as 450,000 call center jobs from the "offshoring" operations of large United States corporations over the next five years.

If firms are under enormous pressure to cut costs and boost shareholder returns and even eventually decide to offshore to outsource up to 1.3 million US-based call center seats that are now being staffed by Americans, said TUCP general secretary Ernesto Herrera.

"Our projection is that 10 firms will find ways to offshore to low-wage Anglo-speaking countries about 30 percent, or 1.3 million, of all call center seats now based in the US," Herrera, a former senator, said.

He said close with the Mormon and culture of college-educated Filipinos, "we should get 30 percent of the seats."

The UK has at present more than three million call center seats, most of them in-house, supporting the operations of large companies that routinely deal with millions of customers.

About six million Americans staff the work stations, making sales calls, taking orders or fielding questions from customers. Those numbers range from telemarketers and catalog order takers to technical support agents for mobile telephone and computer users.

Herrera said TUP's companies were paying their American workers from $7 to $14 per hour in wages, or six to 12 times the P116,000 per month that they would be paying Filipinos off some agents.

"This can definitely save tens of money by exporting their call center activities in the Philippines, either through more cost-effective independent operations or their own offshore outsourcing units to locations like this," he said.

A recent Columbia University survey indicated that after India, the Philippines has been the "second largest recipient of outsourcing, garnering almost 30 percent of the market." —Norman Aning

# Kidney center beats odds, marks 23rd anniversary

THE NATIONAL KIDNEY AND Transplant Institute (NKTI) is celebrating its 23rd anniversary on Feb. 22 still true to its mission "to work hand in hand with government in the achievement of good health for the Filipino people by providing specialized medical services."

Founded in 1983 as the National Kidney Foundation of the Philippines, (NKTI) had just 30 beds for patients needing medical and surgical care. Years later the foundation worked to become the forerunner of transplant centers in the country.

The NKTI story, however, is not without its ironies and losses.

In 1996 five patients died in the Intensive Center of the Philippines following some operations of NKTI. At the same time, the kidney center's facilities had deteriorated, equipment had broken down, or become obsolete, pharmaceutical supplies had to be purchased from outside.

Like any public facility, NKTI depended greatly on meager government subsidies, but its staff persevered and its newly appointed executive director then, Dr. Enrique T. Ona, vowed not to be removed.

Step by step by rehabilitating the patients' rooms and building more to accommodate their growing number.

The Center for Special Services composed of the urology, renal, dialysis, and chronic beriberi, transfusion and pain management units, physical medicine and rehabilitation, pediatric health clinic and vascular laboratory, neonatal and intensive care facilities were established to provide services to patients with special needs.

Up-to-date medical equipment were acquired like a quick 16-slice, millennium VG, parallel-connected open magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasonic scan equipped with color doppler, flow ultrasonography and fluoroscope in the histokinesia digital machines.

The NKTI provided continuing education for its doctors through extensive training programs for the various specialties. To complement and upgrade the skills of its nurses and other paramedical staff, NKTI established the Institute of Advanced Nursing and allied Health Professions.

Today with its three-story edifice and two annexes that can accommodate 200 patients, its state-of-the-art equipment, services and expertise in providing quality medical care, NKTI has maintained its standing as the country's premier institution for kidney diseases and organ transplantation.

It is the first government hospital to be ISO 9001:2000-certified.

On Feb. 21, another building will be blessed, the Gaisano Ka-pyan (Sen. MTI Cafe) Consulting with clubs to the launch of the NKTI annual convention, coffee book, "BOTELLA Kimono Fabric."

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, February 20, 2006
7th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jas 3:13-18
Gospel: Mark 9:14-29

When Jesus came to the place where they had left the disciples, they saw many people around and some teachers of the law arguing with them. When the people saw him, they were astonished and ran to greet him.

He asked, "What are you arguing about with them?" A man in the crowd answered him, saying, "Master, I brought my son to you for he has a dumb spirit. Whenever this spirit attacks him, it throws him down and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth and becomes stiff and rigid. I asked your disciples to drive the spirit out, but they could not."

Jesus replied, "You faithless people, how long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him to me!" And they brought the boy to him.

As soon as the spirit saw Jesus, it shook and convulsed the boy who fell on the ground and began rolling about, foaming at the mouth. Then Jesus asked the father, "How long has this been happening to him?" He replied, "From childhood. And it has often thrown him into fire or water to destroy him. If you can do anything, have pity on us and help us."

Jesus said to him, "Why do you say 'If you can'? All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the boy cried out, "I do believe, but help the little faith I have."

Jesus saw that a crowd was running up, so he rebuked the evil spirit. "Dumb and Deaf spirit, I command you. Leave this boy and never come into him again." The evil spirit shook and convulsed the boy and with one terrible shriek came out. The boy lay like a corpse and people said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him and the boy stood up.

After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive out the evil spirit?" And Jesus answered, "Only prayer can drive out this kind, nothing else."

COMMENTARY

Prayer is power in us, from above—not to manipulate for it is peaceable, humble, docile, rich in sympathy and fair deeds, impartial and sincere. There is a harvest of justice sown in peace for those who cultivate peace. The disciples are having trouble without the wisdom of Jesus. They seek to heal and help and cannot make a dent in evil. Jesus, who is full of wisdom and power, is not afraid to approach the demon and speak to him. Jesus is not afraid to love, and it shows. And Jesus shows us, as well, when things are only to be overcome by prayer. Do we pray as with Jesus before the Father in the power of the Spirit, in peace, full of mercy, outwardly shining, healed? Prayer begins with words and ends in deeds.

(Daughters of St. Paul, 50 Pasay St., EDSA Extension, Quezon City, 722-0036, 724-0201, 724-0253, 724-0345, 724-0361, 724-0366, Fax 721-7249. E-mail: info@pcm.org. Website: http://www.bible-christ.org (Christian Publications, Inc.) & http://www.ecrire.org/Christ/bible/Philippines)

# Suzuki Grand Vitara. City driving at its grandest.

ALL NEW SUZUKI
GRAND
VITARA

**SUZUKI, the pioneer of the compact SUV brings forth its grandest baby--The all-new Suzuki GRAND VITARA.**

Powered by a 2.0 litre engine and built in SUZUKI patented ladder frame. The all new SUZUKI GRAND VITARA is engineered for on and off road adventure. This it + it's sporty look yet savvy handling cantoned with the amenities of a luxury car makes both on and off road your way of life. So whichever road you take, you drive in grand fashion.

FREE SERVICE 3 YEARS OR 30,000 Kms

3 YEARS WARRANTY OR 100,000

SUZUKI
Way of Life!

www.suzuki.com.pk

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozo

# 16 killed in cartoons riot in Nigeria

KANO, NIGERIA—RIOTING IN NIGERIA LEFT AT least 16 people dead Saturday after Muslim protests against the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad descended into violence, a police spokesperson said.

Witnesses said that protesters turned on the Christian minority in the northern city of Maiduguri, burning shops and churches, after police dispersed a rally called to condemn European newspapers that printed the cartoons.

Nigeria's police spokesperson, Deputy Commissioner Mar Inuwa, said that Army troops and police reinforcements had been deployed to the city and that a curfew had been imposed to bring about a return to order.

"We've arrested 115 people. Some 15 persons were killed by rioters, and 11 churches burnt," he said.

Another rioter died in a similar protest in the city of Kaduna where also turned ugly. The rioter was shot dead by police as marchers pelted officers with stones.

"Two police were injured, and we arrested 105 persons. Normalcy has been restored," Inuwa said.

Saturday's deaths were the first linked to the cartoons, an angst mounted among Nigeria's 65 million Muslims, roughly half the population.

Mohammed Awwal, a civil servant in Maiduguri, said: "When the protesters gathered for the protest at Ramat square they were ordered by a police detachment to disperse."

"The policemen then fired tear gases at mangas to disperse the crowd.

"When more were lost town about what happened at the square, a mob attacked motor spare parts shops of Christian Igbo traders at Monday market in the city, looting and burning them," Awwal said.

A local reporter, Abdullahi Bego, said that at least 20 shops had been looted and churches had been burned to the ground.

"There are a lot of military police squad all over the city and their presence has helped quell the rampage," Bego said.

In recent weeks there have been protests around the world—some peaceful, some violent—by Muslims angry over the publication in European newspapers of cartoons satirizing Islam's holiest figure, the Prophet Muhammad.

From Kaduna, a witness said the crowd had only turned violent after something about the cartoons turned to politics and fears that President Olusegun Obasanjo may change the constitution to allow him to extend his eight-year term.

Civil servant Ibrahim Sabitu said: "Initially the preaching concerned not the cartoons, but later the issue of the third term emerged.

"After the preaching the group decided to take its protest to government house. They were restrained and police fired tear gas. People started throwing stones, then the police fired into the crowd," he said.

A local reporter in Kaduna said he had seen three people losing "[about] with gunshot wounds following the fighting.

In Abuja, Information Minister Frank Nweke called on religious leaders to rein in their angry followers. AFP

MAPÚA @ 81:

GREATER HEIGHTS, LONGER REACH

*With our unwavering thrust*

*to lengthen our reach*

*and achieve greater heights*

*comes our new*

Scholarship and Financial Assistance Programs

SCHOLARSHIP

F.T. Yuchengco Institutional Scholarship
- free tuition and other fees for the entire duration of the program
- quarterly stipend of PhP 5,000.00
- quarterly book allowance of PhP 2,000.00
- one (1) Academic Adviser

One Tower Mapúa Scholarship
- full or half tuition scholarship for two (2) quarters

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Income-Based Financial Assistance Program (applicable to selected programs only)
- 25% discount on tuition

Work-to-Study Program
- work rendered to Mapúa shall cover miscellaneous fees

Book Loan Program
- work rendered to Mapúa shall cover quarterly loanable amount (may be used to purchase supplies at the Mapúa Bookstore or pay for services in other departments)

If you have big dreams start here.

For inquiries, you may visit the Mapúa website, or get in touch with the following offices:

http://www.mapua.edu.ph

CENTER FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Tel. (02) 247-3000 local 1330
(02) 401-0108

ADMISSIONS OFFICE
Email: admissions@mapua.edu.ph
Tel. (02) 247-3000 local 3333
(02) 524-0830

PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 20, 2006

TO : ALL ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : New 2006 hospital categories based on service capability

Pursuant to the 1999 Administrative Order No. 2006-0029 entitled A Administrative Order No. 142, also the Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Registration, Licensure and Operation of Hospitals and other Health Facilities in the Philippines, categories of hospitals based on their service capability have been changed effective January 2006.

The equivalent changes in hospital categories for 2004 and Philhealth are as follows:

| Philhealth Hospital Category | All ICDs in 2006 ICDM |
|---|---|
| Primary | Level 1 |
| Secondary | Level 2 |
| Tertiary | Level 3 |
| | Level 4 (Teaching and Training Hospital) |

However, all Philhealth accredited clinics shall be reimbursed according to the old Philhealth hospital category.

For guidance and strict implementation.

(Sgd.) LORNA D. KAPUNAN, DSSA, R
Officer-in-Charge
Office of the President and CEO

Date signed: January 30, 2006

centropolis communities

Own Your First Home in a First-Class Community

RESORT POOL
Five interconnected resort pools including Party Pool, Kiddie Activity Pool, Aquatic Play, Spa Pool and Bubble Pool

LIFESTYLE SQUARE
Mixed-of restaurants and shops in an al fresco setting surrounded by lush greeneries, landscape and water scape

URBAN CLUB
Everything you need is provided through exclusive amenities that accommodate your active lifestyle like Gym/Fitness Center and Badminton Court

GRAND LOBBY
Luxurious and finely furnished entrance lobby that promises a grand welcome to residents

1-Bedroom: PhP38,000 cash
as low as PhP5,600 monthly 0% interest
2 and 3 Bedrooms available at the Development

Ready for occupancy and available for loan by 3rd quarter of 2006

If you call now!
889-7533 to 34 & 907-4101

# Bird flu for first time hits France, India, Iran

PARIS—THE H5N1 BIRD FLU VIRUS was identified Saturday for the first time in France, Iran and India, and detected another victim in Indonesia, though Nigeria said it was bringing the disease under control.

The French government said all containment measures were already in place as it announced that tests on a wild duck found dead in the central province of the highly pathogenic strain of the virus.

Iran another country of the European Union have been confirmed. The presence of the potentially lethal strain of the virus's in humans, which is spreading across the continent after showing up in Turkey and several European.

Iran's about the first H5N1 outbreak in Europe. Europe's largest poultry producer, led the government to take preventive steps Friday and order all poultry and captive birds to be kept indoors, and all farm ducks and geese to be vaccinated to discouragements on the Atlantic coast.

In India, state government officials said that a laboratory had confirmed the country's first outbreak of the virus in chickens after 10,000 birds died.

With countries about the world's poultry stock, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said many influenza a not "concentrated through properly cooked poultry or poultry products, as the WHO virus is heat-sensitive.

Meanwhile, Iran said that 120 wild swans found dead at the Caspian Sea coast have tested positive for H5N1, the first cases of the virus to be confirmed in the Islamic republic.

Indonesia, easily tied to 19th death from bird flu, a 22-year-old man who worked for a chicken retailer, as the health minister vowed to boost stockpiles of the Tamiflu anti-viral drug.

The world's fourth most populous nation has now reported eight fatalities from H5N1 this year alone, the highest figure globally. The virus has claimed some 90 lives, mostly in Asia, since late 2003.

The virus is spreading in Austria, affecting a zoo in the capital Vienna and a duck in a neighboring village, officials said Saturday.

At the same time it has been detected in 20 more dead birds on a Croatian island where 15 were found earlier this week, the northeastern state of Bischofshofen Hunsruck's agriculture minister, Till Backhaus, said.

Austria's Agriculture Minister Hans Hoefer cautioned on Friday that about 60 birds in all had been tested for avian influenza and more positive results could be expected.

Officials in Nigeria said Saturday that declared the circle was slowly coming under control, 11 days after Africa's first outbreak of the deadly H5N1 strain of avian influenza.

"The situation is under control ... If there are new deaths we are up to it," Nigeria's chief veterinary officer Ambassador Hezekiah said.

"Under the emergency preparedness plan, we have 70 investigators and diagnostic centers to go out, get and test samples from all over the country as soon as there are a high number of deaths," he said.

Bird flu had been confirmed in three northern states but there have been several suspected outbreaks in other states.

Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif on Sat said he urged Egyptians to put an end to the use of rooftop henhouses, described as a major health hazard since the first outbreak of avian influenza was confirmed. Four out of six bodied found to have been infected by the deadly H5N1 strain in Cairo came from such installations.

Italy is proposed to breach European Union rules on state aid to agriculture in order to boost poultry farmers suffering from economic losses over bird flu, Italian media quoted Agriculture Minister Gianni Alemanno as saying Saturday. AFP

AVIAN being vaccinated in India.

PAKISTANI Muslim activists shout anti-European slogans during a demonstration in Peshawar, Feb. 18, against publication of the cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad.

## Danish editor: Cartoons printed in response to self-censorship

WASHINGTON—THE DANISH EDITOR in charge of publishing cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad says they were printed in response to self-censorship on issues regarding Islam and that giving in to pressure not to run them would have been "incompatible with the modern democracy."

In an opinion piece written for Sunday editions of the Washington Post, Flemming Rose, the editor in the Jyllands-Posten newspaper behind the publication of the cartoons, said assuming the cartoons were responding to "subduing fears and feelings of intimidation in dealing with issues related to Islam."

Critics Danish children's comics not being able to find collaborators for a book about Muhammad and the Jyllands-posten in London with owning up to criticism that depicted of Islam, Bible and Talmud were no parent. Rose said his newspaper saw it legitimate news item to cover and Jyllands-Posten decided to do it by adopting the well-known journalistic principle. Show don't tell."

The cartoons, first printed in September, have set off violent protests around the world in which at least 40 people have died. Other Western newspapers, mostly in Europe, have reprinted the pictures, asserting their news value and the right to freedom of expression.

Many widely held, that representations of Muhammad are banned for fear they could lead to idolatry.

Rose—who is an authority training from his newspapers—argues that the cartoons were not in their treatment of Islam.

"The cartoonists briefed Islam the same way they treat Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism and other religions. And by treating Muslims in less harsh, in equity they made a point. We are integrating you into the Danish traditions of satire because you are part of our society, not strangers. You have to live our lifestyle, rather than our having, Muslim," Rose wrote.

One of the most notorious of the cartoons published features the prophet with a bomb in his turban.

"Angry viewers claim the cartoon is saying that the prophet is a terrorist or that every Muslim is a terrorist," Rose wrote. "I read it differently. Some individuals have taken the religion of Islam hostage by committing terrorist acts in the name of the prophet. They are the ones who have given the religion bad name."

Jyllands-Posten has refused to print editorial cartoons of Jesus, but not because it applies a double standard. In fact, the same newspaper who drew the image of Muhammad with a bomb in his turban drew a cartoon with Jesus on the cross having dollar signs in his eyes and another with the star of David attached to a Jesus hat. There were, however, no cartoons hanging or insult threats taken on published them." AP

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

# Buyer draws $365-M lottery jackpot ticket

OMAHA, NEBRASKA—A LUCKY purchaser bought a winning ticket for today's record $365 million Powerball lottery jackpot, officials said.

A winning ticket was sold Lincoln, Nebraska, the Nebraska Lottery reported. It was not known last night whether other winning tickets were sold in other states.

The chance of winning the jackpot by matching all six numbers were 1 in 146.1 million. The winning numbers drawn Saturday night were 13-17-43-44-48 and Power Ball 20.

Would-be dreamers of winning a record $365 million Powerball lottery jackpot closed in neighboring Iowa an hour before that New sun of machines at drawing speeds.

"I figure somebody is going to win it, so it might as well be me," said Casey Bakewell, a banking student of retirement planner had from seventeen Friday in Nebraska.

The Powerball jackpot topped the previous lottery record, which was $343 million for the Big Sombrero dollar winner of Mega Millions. That was won by two ticket holders in Illinois and Michigan in 1996.

Powerball's second record of $340 million was won by an Oregon family in October. AP


AIRFARES | EXCITING PACKAGES

TRAVEL PLAZA INCORPORATED

Magellan World Travel Inc.

TRAVEL SPECIALS
Every Friday departure via Lantow
Daily departure via HONGKONG
Wednesday departure via HONGKONG

COLORS TRAVEL & TOURS

Special Promo Package
BANGKOK | SINGAPORE
OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TICKETS/PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE
WE ALSO OFFER PASSPORTING
VISA ASSISTANCE & INVI...
SAMS TRAVEL & TOURS

COPIERS Rental
COPYTRADE

SPECIAL PROMO!!!
₱16,500
PANASONIC MAIN SYSTEM
PABX
FREE DEMO

PRESTIGE TRAVEL & TOURS

HAVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE!
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE

RICHWORLD TRAVEL & TOURS

ATTENTION!
ENTREPRENEURS, OFWs, RETIREES, ETC.
PRINT PROFIT
START A PRINTSHOP BUSINESS NOW!
START-UP CAPITAL ₱ 307
Inclusive of Training and Equipment
FOR RESERVATION

MEGA SAVERS PACKAGE

Royal Tours
Royal Vacation Holiday Travel & Tours

Got travel?
Think Winlink.
Starting at $285

$339 $148

BUDGET FARES TO THE USA!

WINLINK TRAVEL

HONEY HOLIDAYS
SHANGHAI
HONGKONG
HONGKONG
HONGKONG
BEIJING
SHANGHAI
BEIJING-SHANGHAI
BEIJING-SHANGHAI
SINGAPORE
BANGKOK
BANGKOK-PATTAYA
BANGKOK-PATTAYA
JAPAN TOUR
NEW YORK
KOREA-SHANGHAI
KOREA-SHANGHAI-LONGJING

Where you find the best.
JOB

SPRING PACKAGE $765
$950 EXOTIC INDIA
$750
$1750
PACKAGES
RAKSO

China Panorama
RAMADA
NEW WORLD Hotel
PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.

# 1M fans 'satisfied' with Stones concert

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—Veteran rock group the Rolling Stones treated 1.1 million delirious fans to a rock 'n' roll spectacle with a free show on the Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana Beach on Saturday night to rebut won one of the biggest rock concerts ever.

Singer Mick Jagger, 52, danced around the stage like a skinny teenager for the two-hour show, which featured songs from their early days in London 40 years ago and from their latest Grammy-winning album "A Bigger Bang."

Police deployed more than 6,000 officers throughout Rio, one of the most beautiful but violent cities in the world.

Officials had been worried about widespread thefts or trouble with the drug gangs that rule the shantytowns, or favelas.

"Nothing untoward happened, thanks to God. It was calm," police Col. Leonardo Oliveira said.

A few departments off-list said about 2000 people were treated for robberies, drunkenness and other problems.

Prosecutor Jacqueline Muniz had accepted several frantic offers that drug gangs killed rich people in the Rocinha shantytown on Wednesday.

Thirteen criminals the crowd numbered about one million people. Thousands more milled around surrounding streets, dancing here and holding impromptu parties.

Others watched from a flotilla of private boats in the bay and from hotel rooms along scenic Avenue. On many, the music from neighbors along the beach.

With its reputation for drunkenness, drugs and debauchery, the way the perfect venue for the Stones, the taut band boys of rock who made sound in a powerful business operation.

The Rio concert was part of the band's "A Bigger Bang" tour, which kicked off in the United States in August and was the top-grossing rock tour of 2005.

Fans came from as far away as Japan and Europe for the show. Reuters


PLANNING TO PUT UP AN ICE PLANT? BLOCK or TUBE ICE?
Baron Engineering Supplies
Split Type Aircon
1hp-P16,500
Free Installation!
Call 8866696/7880221
VIPER
convert your gate to remote control
P35,000
Swing Type/ Slide Type
FREE INSTALLATION
CALL: 886-6696/788-0221
WILSON
WET & DRY
LANGUAGES
English Fun at Summer Time!
Fly Now, Pay Later!
SELL RENT
Exhibit & Promo Systems
Tel.: 822-1477
TRANSAD ADVERTISING INC
BE IN CONTROL!
USE 2-WAY RADIOS
SysTech Systems
LOW COST ID Card Maker
Design & Create your own...
START UP KIT
COPYSTAR
OFFICE AUTOMATION
CLEAR POWDER COPIER
ALSO AVAILABLE
SALES:
MIST FAN COOLING SYSTEMS
Convert your existing fan into an Evaporative Cooling System
COOL MIST INTERNATIONAL
Most Practical Choice:
Multi-Use Cleaners
Commando 4003
Commando 707
FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila
CLEANLITE COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
LA CASARITA
TOP QUALITY
Water Refilling Station Systems
and Replacement Parts
WaterCare
Bringing the World's Best in Water Treatment to the Filipino People
"Quality Water, Quality Life"
FURNITURE ON SALE!
Spectrum
Intellect
SAMSUNG
Wuxin FORKLIFT
CHIYODA
VICTOR HARDWARE

# Scientists: California quake may trigger another Katrina

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI—MANY HIGHLY populated US regions face the threat of flooding as disastrous as after Hurricane Katrina, due to urban sprawl across river floodplains, scientists warned Saturday.

An earthquake in coastal California could destroy the levee system that has been built up since the rumble of the 1906 catastrophic quake, they said.

"The probability of a catastrophic levee failure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in the next 50 years is one in three," Mount said on the sidelines of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual conference.

Mount gave a sweeping presentation to the conference entitled "The Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta: The next New Orleans?"

He said one of the largest earthquakes in California could destroy the levee system that has been built up since the rumble of the 1906 catastrophic quake, they said.

Mount said it could have a similar impact to the flood disaster in 2005.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin deltawater more than 40 percent of California's rainfall and covers some 250,000 hectares. It is the main source of water for about 25 million people, of California's 34 million population.

But more of the land is below sea level and in places is five more than 4,500 feet of levees.

Another 3,000 lie just around St. Louis in Missouri have a similar threat from the Mississippi river, according to Adolphus Busch, head of the Corps Levee Reform Alliance.

Busch, a member of the Anheuser-Busch brewing family, said there had been "dramatic urban sprawl since the most recent major flood in 1993."

He said the housing and development had dramatically reduced effective ground that normally is open for flood waters.

Nicholas Pinter of the University of Southern Illinois said that efforts to protect St Louis against flooding ultimately had increased the risks.

Eight-five percent of the Mississippi is now held back by levees, and the level of the river has risen by 4 to 6 since the start of the century, he said.

The offenders is more similar to New Orleans, which was devastated last year after Hurricane Katrina smashed to water defenses, and to the Netherlands region.

"In spite of 70 years of federal flood control efforts and nearly 40 years of federal flood insurance, the costs of flooding continue to rise and there is no federal policy to provide direction for future actions," said Gerald Galloway, an engineering professor at the University of Maryland.

Galloway said that development had to be curtailed in risk zones and water defenses had to be strengthened as the authorities in the Netherlands have done since disastrous flooding there.

AFP

**WESTERN UNION SEND-MONEY-ABROAD SERVICE.**

We're not just about receiving money from abroad, we also send money abroad.

- FAST - Money is transferred in minutes, so no time to worry. What's more, you can send even beyond banking hours so there are no wasted opportunities!
- AFFORDABLE - Now for as low as $14 with absolutely no additional charges or deductions to the receiver.*
- CONVENIENT - With over 235,000 agent locations worldwide, there's sure to be one near your receiver.

So whenever you need to send money to your contacts abroad, send it through Western Union and make them know you're really committed.

WESTERN UNION
FAST, RELIABLE, WORLDWIDE MONEY TRANSFER

For more information, call 888-1200 for Metro Manila
1-800-1-888-1200 for free calls outside of Metro Manila or text (0917) 888-1200

*In addition to the transfer fees, Western Union also makes money when it changes your money into foreign currency. Transfer fee applicable for transactions up to $100 to USA, Canada, UAE, India, Australia, China, Hongkong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Brunei. Transfer fees subject to change without notice.

Western Union does not guarantee the delivery or suitability of any good or service paid for by means of a Western Union Money Transfer. See To Send form for details.

Copyright © 2004 Western Union Holdings, Inc. All rights reserved.


## *Thaksin battles 'lame duck' label*

By Nopporn Wong-Anan

BANGKOK—DOING HIS FIRST FIVE YEARS as Thai prime minister, Thaksin Shinawatra and his government modernised the country and ushered a smooth ride through everything from fiscal flux to the rise and fall of Western superstars.

But as the billionaire tycoon and self-styled "CEO premier" embarks on a stint in the office, a chorus of critics from graft busters to business persons and outright rebellion campaigners are making his life increasingly difficult.

Fighting resurgent unrest on a more public stimulus fronts, Thaksin and his Thai Rak Thai (Thais Love Thais) party still have little time to celebrate months and years to go on with the business of governance, analysts say.

Any independent analysts believe he will not complete the remaining three years of his second term, but they see Friday's caution with [illegible] audacity or overconfidence inherent in typical of the aggressive tactics he will need to deploy.

"The government has become a lame duck as Thaksin has lost his integrity of leadership," said political and investment analyst Kanjit Phaopa, professor at Bangkok's Thammasat University.

"He will be busy keeping the ball on his hands, chasing away any off-constitutional channels to democracy," Kanjit said.

"He won't have much time left for the economy."

One major headache is a road-building scheme that Bangkok middle-classes saw his family's $1.9 billion, 66-liter sell-off of their stake in Shin Corp, the telecoms empire he founded, to Singapore state investment company Temasek.

In what a list-off on Thursday when the Constitutional Court refused to launch a probe into the controversial share sale.

But he is far from out of the woods.

Two weeks ago, vengeful former business partner and media mogul Sondhi Limthongkul mustered a crowd of 40,000 people—the biggest anti-government demonstration in 14 months—calling for Thaksin to stand down.

A week-ended a week later drew 20,000 to central Bangkok, and Sondhi has vowed to keep going until Thaksin is out of Government House. Some analysts are saying this week's Constitutional Court decision could boost the rebellion's spirits.

The constantly-rendered political tone caused the stock market and the baht to wobble last week.

What also threw on a major question mark over Thaksin's ability to push through an unfinished $42 billion scheme to overhaul public infrastructure.

Transport Minister Suriyan Kalayanapongsa admitted this week that long-term foreign investors were asking about the sustainability of the planned "megaprojects," which range from rail and subway networks to canal irrigation systems.

Reuters

# A Legacy of Caring through Quality Medicine

Since 1946, Pascual Laboratories, Inc. has been providing Filipinos with quality and innovative health care products and services. From its humble beginnings in Tondo, it grew into a successful conglomerate that plays an active role in nation-building. Pascuallab provides valuable employment to hundreds of Filipinos. It helps fuel the country's growth by being one of the Top 500 taxpayers of the Philippines. Pascuallab has also brought pride and honor to the country by receiving various product awards and accolades abroad.

Starting from a single room laboratory, it now boasts of CGMP and ISO 9000:2001 certified production facilities in Balagtas, Bulacan that manufacture medicines at par with world standards, thanks to its quality assurance capabilities.

**Pascuallab is known for its quality medicines trusted by millions of Filipinos nationwide.**

POTEN-CEE® IMMUVIT BETADINE® ASCOF PHAREX Propan® GLUCOLYTE

Pascuallab has much to celebrate this year and part of the reason for this is the valuable support given by its partners in the medical community - the doctors and pharmacists who trust in their products and the drugstores that proudly carry them.

**We celebrate our 60th Anniversary with renewed strength and optimism as we vow to continue the legacy of our founders and make Pascual Laboratories, Inc. a global Filipino pharmaceutical company!**

Pascual PHAREX HealthCorp ALTERMED CORPORATION HOUSTON PHARMA

www.pascuallab.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# OPINION

Your opinion matters

## Suddenly, a landslide

THE NUMBERS VARY, BUT WHATEVER THE EXTENT, the import is not in doubt. An entire barangay was wiped off the map last Friday, in less than a minute, when a landslide buried Guinsaugon, one of 38 barangays in St. Bernard town, Southern Leyte.

Perhaps 1,200 residents (or under some 200 feet of mud), perhaps the number is closer to 1,800. It is hard to be either exact or certain. The weather conditions that led to the landslide have made rescue and relief operations extremely difficult, even risky.

The last survivor rescued was pulled out from under the muck on Friday afternoon. Since then, only dead bodies have been recovered. (As of 4 p.m. yesterday, that grim statistic stood at 62.) The number of those who yet are accounted for remains unbearably high.

As many as 300 of the missing are elementary students, believed trapped in their school when the rain-saturated slope of the mountain came crashing down. One of the six teachers buried with them sent text messages hours after the landslide, confirming they were still alive. But since 7 p.m. last Friday her cell phone has fallen silent.

It is unseemly, even illogical, to compare tragedies. But it is also only natural. One of instinct, we reach back into the past to help make sense of the present.

In many ways, the Guinsaugon tragedy is "worse" than the shocking Philippairs stampede. There is the sheer difference of scale: possibly almost 2,000 victims died. There is the absolute unexpectedness of it all; the victims had not joined a queue for the chance to win big or small prizes. Many of them were simply going about their ordinary business; a number of them had in fact just come back to the village because, after two weeks of rain, the weather looked like it had finally cleared. Then the devastation—the mountain shook, and an entire barangay disappeared.

Not least, there is the anguish of the survivors. Hundreds of children did what society expected of them, going to school because, as many of them must have been told, education was the ticket to a better life—only to learn the most painful lesson of all. Death comes like a thief in the night.

Ours is still a religious nation, so it is only to be expected that in the last few days both public discourse and private conversation have touched on the threshold question: How can God, or Allah, or Providence, allow something like this to happen?

There are no easy answers; there may in fact be no answer. But the Christian faith that a majority of Filipinos still profess to follow offers a radical response: Those who believe in a suffering God believe that their God is right there among the suffering.

## Lessons from the past

IT SEEMS WE HAVE LEARNED SOME LESSONS from the earliest disasters of the year. The organized reaction to the Guinsaugon landslide has been disciplined, proportionate, and on target.

Both the district congressman and the provincial governor responded to the first news of the tragedy with resolve and dispatch. In the first hours after the landslide, they proved to be the principal and largely accurate (if somewhat harassed) sources of information.

The national government also responded in a timely manner. A few hours after the landslide, the President went on the air, to offer her sympathies and to announce her instructions. These included the redeployment of Army soldiers to help in the rescue, and the hiring of a ship to transport MPA rice and other necessities.

The Philippine National Red Cross spearheaded both rescue operations in the village and a fund-raising campaign in the Greens headquarters of the Red Cross. It managed to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars in aid in a matter of hours. Through the National Disaster Coordinating Council, the US Embassy also announced the redeployment to Leyte of two Navy ships that were en route to the Balikatan military exercises in Subic.

Much remains to be done, of course. As many as 1,800 residents may still be under 30 feet of mud. Some 1,500 survivors need immediate assistance and long-term rehabilitation. But all told, what needed to be done in the first 48 hours of the tragedy was done; even politicians and political players like outspoken bishops observed a uncustomary cessation of political back-passing and blame-throwing. All that will come later, inevitably, like fate.

## Cha-cha brains giving out fake awards

IF YOU ARE INCLINED TO EXPECT THE ADOPTION of a new constitution and new form of government, the following story should give you pause because it gives you an insight into the character of the unelected men behind the Charter change. It also gives an indication of what he is capable of doing once he becomes the head of the bureau.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, the principal driving force behind Cha-Cha-cha, has been going out of his way to give out awards to visiting heads of state and high officials of other countries for, per his, Francisco Tatad told a breakfast forum last Saturday. Moreover, he may have seen the needs of a diplomatic row with China by accepting Tatad's invitation to be independent author for cobbling up one "One-China" policy. Recently he handed to the Philippine-Taiwan Parliamentarians' Friendship Society sets of the members of the Senate of Taiwan and of the Congress of Taiwan. So it only that de Venecia's fake democratic credentials be found the Asian of Chinese when he visited here. Expect a diplomatic protest from the Chinese Embassy.

In last two years, De Venecia has also established the discussion on President Macapagal of Pakistan, President Rafael of India, Speaker Dilma of the Polish Parliament, Secretary General Anders Johnson of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), President Jacques Chirac of Chile, and former Prime Minister Aznar of Spain. The award has provoked serious questions, especially among diplomatic observers. De Venecia calls it the "Congressional Medal of Achievement." Yet there is no record of it ever having been created by Congress. The decision on awards rests with the Board of Awards, without God of Senate President Franklin Drilon, who heads the other half of Congress.

Nor is there any record of the Senate or House of Representatives, Congress of the Philippines."

But a check on the records of the House Committee on Awards and Decorations will find nothing to do as all such the award, Tatad said.

"Hi 451," he said, "is entitled 'Resolution Directing the Committee on Labor and Employment and Foreign Affairs to conduct a joint congressional inquiry on the status of the employment of overseas Filipino workers in Iraq and look into the alleged neglect of duty of officials of the Department of Labor and Employment and Foreign Affairs tasked to implement said laws." It was introduced by party-list members Crispin Beltran, Rafael Mariano, Teodoro Casiño, Liza Largoza-Maza, Loretta Ann Rosales and Joel Virador."

Neither the Senate nor the House of Representatives has any part in the creation of the award. "It appears to be purely De Venecia's personal invention and initiative, but this is not made known, whether to the public or to its recipients," Tatad said.

The manifesto on talks between the Philippines and Bahrain—still going on in Makati as of this writing, more than 48 hours after they began last Feb. 16 in Club Filipino, Pamplona—could end up such one of the most contradictory, disagreeable and anomalous bilateral air negotiations the country has entertained.

Like any good Boxer, the Philippines last out the welcome mat for the delegation from Bahrain, a tiny speck of desert land to the Arabian Gulf, not much bigger than Metro Manila.

The Bahrainis were a debacle for the Philippines. The Philippine air panel—headed by Transportation Undersecretary Edward Abaya Hagamen and composed of representatives from the department of foreign affairs, trade and industry, and tourism, as well as from Clark Development Corp. and the local airlines—was humiliating by poor leadership and muddling from interlopers with vested interests.

There are some interesting subplots of the talks shared by somebody who was there:

Early in the eve of the negotiations, a dinner was hosted by Imelda Aguilar's chair of the ASEAN Committee Tribunal, for all delegation. Aguilar, who prior by the honorary title of "ambassador" is actually a businesswoman who established a computer school in Batangas (1991).

That made him a party of interest in the talks and, indeed, Aguilar showed his true colors when he agreed with the position of the Gulf state in his public remarks during the dinner. Our country was only Aguilar clearly mentioned the rules and lobbied brokering on behalf of Bahrain. For a "Philippine ambassador," such a behavior is up-putting, even treasonous.

On the other hand, Hagamen is said to have been less than resolute in supporting the positions taken by the rest of the RP panel—that the airlines of both countries begin a commercial operation with no limitations for granting Gulf air-route flight rights to Manila.

Hagamen was not a firm leader, our source said. Concerned about what the Arabs might do if they were rebuffed, he reportedly was willing to concede to more air rights (an additional set of six flights weekly) to his panel members. In other words, Hagamen was more worried about Bahrain's reaction than about what was best for the Philippines.

Then, despite knowing that the RP-Bahrain air market is modest—this tiny island nest has than 1,000 tourists here last year and there are only 10,000 Filipino workers there—

When the rest of the panel stuck to its positions, Hagamen came around, but not decisively enough. He wavered and left the RP position hanging, instead of presenting a united front to the Arabs.

Unfortunately, the rest of the panel stood firm to uphold the national interest until however dear pressure from the powers that be.

Whatever the outcome of these talks, our hearts go out to the RP panel members for their principled stand.

## Songs for our times

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

I THOUGHT TO SHARE SOME SONGS WITH you on the first day of Bilas week. You might want to sing or hum them at the dinner or cocktails at it.

The first one is called, "The Great Pretender," sung by the Platters and dedicated to Wowowee Pilot (This one inspired Bobi's outrage)—

*Oh-oh-oh-oh, I'm the great pretender*
*Pretending my that I'm doing well. My need is much I pretend*
*without you maybe. I'm lonely but we are just still...*
*Oh-oh, yes I'm the great pretender. And oh so a need kind of me more. I'm pleased to the game but to my surprise. I'm left to grieve all alone in the dinner or cocktails at it.*

*Too need a who feeling of make believe. Too need when I feel what my heart can't control. / So I'm the great pretender. Just laughin' and gay like a dunce I seem to be what I'm not, you see. I know that my heart will go to pieces like a rain drop. I'll fall to be around. Too need a who feeling of make believe. Too real when I fall what my heart can't control. Oh, yes, I'm the great pretender. Laugin' and gay.*

[MUSIC swings to cocktail "Yesterday," sung by the Beatles, with dedication to Vice Ramon Bello.

*Yesterday, / All my troubles seemed so far away. / Now it looks as though they're here to stay. / Oh, I believe in yesterday. / Suddenly, / I'm not half the man I used to be. / There's a shadow hanging over me. Oh, yesterday came suddenly.*

*Why I have to go Lolot Honasan / I couldn't say. / Lolot came hanging over me. / Oh I'm lonely.*

*Yesterday, / Love was such an easy game to play. / Now I need a place to hide away. / Oh, I believe in yesterday.* Why I have to go. I don't know. I couldn't say. / Lolot something wrong. / Oh I've come a yesterday.

[MUSIC swings to cocktail "Yesterday," sung by the Beatles, with dedication to Vice Ramon Bello.

*Yesterday, / All my troubles seemed so far away. / Now it looks as though they're here to stay. / Oh, I believe in yesterday. / Suddenly, / I'm not half the man I used to be. / There's a shadow hanging over me. Oh, yesterday came suddenly.*

*Why I have to go Lolot Honasan / I couldn't say. / Lolot came hanging over me. / Oh I'm lonely.*

*Yesterday, / Love was such an easy game to play. / Now I need a place to hide away. / Oh, I believe in yesterday.* Why I have to go. I don't know. I couldn't say. / Lolot something wrong. / Oh I've come a yesterday.

But, wrong as you are sure, the song the time of your life' line that you would be sung right to the Dancing King." Ugly is Black and the mood is low. People have nowhere to go. Just come into my parlor, get into the swing. You're just found the Dancing King. You are never stop the game. He is old but he...ambition's high. With a bit of practice you'll be a prince to Juan. Electric is the mood for a dance. And there he goes, his dance.

You are the Dancing King, off to have, only an-



one. Dancing King, feel the heat for the romance.

You're a loser now but to you can learn. My fucking mind that you're gonna make it / Looks like you're in trouble / No one else will do. You're in the mood for a dance. And then he grabs his chance. / You are the dancing king, still in luck, only swing. [Jumping King (All look up) he' your feet dancing.

David sang it. The Platters, No Doz," sung by the Platters, dedicated to the detainees, soldiers and civilians.

*No Worries, no cry, I expect to make it better. / Just say no go to sir / In this prison cell it's Oliver Years / Oh, observing the frayed ties / If they would mingle with / So good people they meet / Good hands we have had, on good hands we've lost along the way. / To find your future you can't forget your past / So dry your tears, I say.*

*No Worries, no cry / So worries, no cry / Little do not don't feel no more.*

*No Worries, no cry.*

And, said, said, I remember as we go to sir / In the playground I used to play / Great times and good times / Memories / Sunshine on the days / Holding hands / Trusting true / Good times and bad times / We'll always have each other / It's you and me / And memories / We've got to remember / Just you and me / And I don't want to live / If I can't live forever / And I can live with the memories / Just you and me / Forever and for always

# Remembering Edsa I

AFTER EDSA I AND EDSA II, AND AS ONCE again we approach Feb. 25, thoughts of "people power" are very much on my mind. People power defies definition: it presupposes yet does not necessarily mean democracy. Today, once again, there are inconvenient, surreal (the defenestration of a president) and the adoption of a new Constitution.

What end-events is important. Revolutions do not happen in a vacuum. Revolutions are not written in a thematic. They are born under the auspices of pre-existing political conditions.

The 1987 Constitution was born in the aftermath of the 1986 people power revolution which saw the ouster of President Ferdinand Marcos but which notably redesigned the governmental and constitutional system. Speaking of this event, the Court said in 1992: "From the national law point of view, the right of revolution has been defined as 'an inherent right of a people to alter their form of government, change their policy or effect radical reforms in their system of government or institutions, by force or a peaceful uprising when the legal and constitutional methods of making such things have proved impossible or inadequate.' And as it is, he unavailable. It has been said that 'the locus of positive law-making power lies with the people or the state' and from there is derived 'the right of the people to abolish an inherit tend to alter any form of government that becomes tyrannic (sic) or inadequate to the existing conditions.'"

The 1987 Constitution was preceded by the Freedom Constitution which also affirmed that "the new government under President Corazon C. Aquino was installed through the extraordinary action of the Filipino people assisted by some of the New Armed Forces of the Philippines." But it was also the Freedom Constitution which called the 1986 Constitutional Commission into existence.

Can Edsa I happen again? What was its cause?

There is a tendency to attribute the ethos of democracy to the events of the four days in February 1986. Those days will forever be remembered

## Sounding Board

*Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.*

as a shining moment in a people's history, but the four days do not tell all. Edsa was but a part of a process, albeit the most memorable, both for the emergence of democracy and its destruction. It was a conclusion and inherent evolution. But the long process of which it was a part includes both the struggles that precipitated the imposition of martial law and the struggles during the long, dark nights that followed it.

There was never a moment, starting on Sept. 21, 1972, that the nation was not moving toward Edsa. The underground struggle, the bloody encounters, the grasses of torture victims, the pamphleteering, the rallies, and political and religious, the silent seeking of heaven by contemplatives and, the value of his sacrifices, the electoral struggle under the mass system (no communists, and, yes, even the "collaborators" with the enemy—and, in an ironic twist, "enemies" of the enemy) and, when, at the end, Ninoy Aquino, which the Filipino people had first formally invoked in its 1935 Constitution, put the pieces together and he then explode into the celebration that was Edsa.

When I reflect on the events of 20 years ago, I see Edsa as a Divine Providence's answer to a longing, driven the final downfall of the calm. Nothing else he reasonable she would like to encompassable solution. President Marcos closed all challengers in a "snap election." There was no alternative. The events that followed brought out a multiplicity of factors no one of whom could have achieved the result alone.

First, providential hopefully on 6th of their own

Seven is a time, as now is time of our president and candidate supported by all. They mattered a honeyville inexperienced in government, they were guided by the wisdom of "twenty plus" who would become the "Edsa" government through which Providence would confound the proud. Her battle cry of "same sa, edsa sa" rang out the public imagination.

Then, on the 16th month of February 1986, whether by conscience or by desperate strategists, new heaven emerged. The computer operators unmasked the computer to show the "Edsa" version of the electoral victory. Enemy military intelligence officers broke the world's RAM (Reform the Armed Forces Movement) plot for a coup d'etat. Trapped, the soldiers made a defiant stand. To the details, story said.

Then followed the call of Jaime Cardinal Sin and Bishop Labayan for the populace to rescue the beleaguered soldiers. The people came in massed brigades of all ages and sexes to dash the soldiers from the threatening process of the President.

The martial story went bad. Fundamental humanist movements like soldiers, Letters to the sovereign people prevailed, and the soldiers turned their backs on the Commander in Chief. In that fact, too, there was heroism. And the distance encounter between civilian and soldiers. Edsa brought out the best in the Filipino people, creativity and for the same people, a virtue to celebrate as solidarity, symbolic of a people determined to join hands and march for a new future.

I do not see the process and the drama of February 1986 being repeated today. Then

EIC
EDUCATION IN CANADA
Come to Canada to complete your elementary, high school, college, or post-graduate education.

EPSON
EXCEED YOUR VISION

Low inK cost,
BIG
in PERFORMANCE

EPSON STYLUS™ C45
EPSON STYLUS™ C67
EPSON STYLUS™ C87

USE ONLY EPSON GENUINE CONSUMABLES
Best for your prints.
Best for your printers..
www.epson.com.ph


# Blasphemy in 'South Park'

LETTERS

—ATTY. [redacted]
executive director,
Family Media Advocacy Foundation,
[redacted]

## More important than health care costs

—[redacted]
[redacted]

## Edsa I in news gallery

—[redacted]
[redacted]

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

# Jolo bar blast won't stop RP-US war games

JOLO, SULU—THE BOMB EXPLOSION THAT KILLED A MAN AND wounded 28 others here on Saturday night will not stop the Balikatan exercises as police remained clueless on who, or what group, was behind the bomb attack.

Lt. Col. Mark Zimmers, public affairs officer of the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines, said there are no plans of changing the schedules of our medical, dental and engineering action programs or any activities of the Balikatan in Jolo.

"Filipinos and Americans are doing very well with their water well and school building activities in Balikatan Sulu," he said. "They, however, were heavily surveyed. At least two MI17H helicopters and a P3 Orion spy plane were flying to ensure the soldiers' safety.

Zimmers refused to comment if he thought the explosion was meant to disrupt the Balikatan exercise, which started Saturday afternoon.

"We don't want to speculate. We will not say anything until the investigation is completed," Zimmers added.

The lone fatality is the blast was identified as Domingo de Leon, a Filipino from Cavite City who belonged to a group that was constructed by the Americans to maintain a roadside toilet here.

De Leon, seven Filipino police, suffered multiple shrapnel wounds and third degree burns.

Sulu police chief Senior Supt. Abraham Ajirmat admitted that police would still not say who was behind the attack.

"We really have no idea, we're waiting for the results of the investigation," Ajirmat said.

He said based on initial findings, the explosion inside the Timar Videoke Thee was caused by a type of dynamite commonly used in blast fishing.

Nurahlyn Sajiin, the videoke bar's cashier, said the explosion happened in the electronic from the entrance of the establishment.

Sajiin suffered burns and wounds in her face and legs.

Most of the injured were women working in the bar as guest relations officers. Four officer Filipino soldiers were also wounded.

Ajirmat said he had declared a full red alert status in Jolo, "and we are all in full combat positions in the town[ Jolo] as of [this] explosion."

The explosion came after gunmen against the Balikatan in Jolo and the shooting of stray dogs allegedly by American soldiers.

An American military officials defended the shooting of stray dogs, saying the animals were a danger to people.

"We do not condone the shooting of these animals, but we are also training women on the safety of our people, the safety concerns of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the local civilians," said Col. James Linder, overall commander of the Joint Special Operation Task Force Philippines (JSOTF).

"The animals that were destroyed appeared to be stray and vulnerable, and as I said we are looking into this and we are doing investigation to ensure that we are doing the proper procedures," Linder added. — Jobo Alimahil with a report from Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Double Coated Foam Tape
Characteristics
Applications
DEXTERTON

DOLL of the Japanese dolls on exhibit at the Provincial Capitol Complex of Camarines Sur by the Japan Foundation.

## Japanese dolls on tour reach Camarines Sur

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—JAPANESE DOLLS may be the most expensive in the world with a set-item could be worth millions of pesos.

But, to a Japanese group that brought the dolls here, they are a source of Japan's culture.

"The appreciation of Japanese dolls is the first step to understand our culture," according to Tetsuro Sasaki, director of Japan Foundation, a group that promotes Japanese culture through exchange programs.

Sasaki said the Japanese dolls reflect their appearance and customs as it delivers people and had been part of their tradition for thousands of years.

To celebrate the 50th year of Philippine-Japan Friendship, the Japan Foundation brought over Camarines Sur 70 Japanese dolls for exhibit at the provincial capitol complex.

The Japanese doll exhibit has already toured Bicolnia last month and will be in Baguio City next month.

In cooperation with the provincial government of Camarines Sur, the Japanese doll exhibit will run until Feb. 19 at the function room of the Convention Center at the Capitol Complex here.

Gov. Rep. Villafuerte said the exhibit will help entice investors to the province.

Villafuerte added that the provincial government also provides free bilingual lessons to promote Japanese culture.

Sasaki said that, like the characters of their written language, the Japanese dolls express the reality of everyday life in Japan.

The dolls have distinctive regional traditional attire, over the centuries, have evolved into many diverse forms.

He said Japanese dolls are not really true but representative of kid dolls, traditions and customs of the artists from Japan handed down from generation to generation. — Jason Encabo de Ir., PDI Sanchez Lyzon Bureau

# Rubber planting seen step vs air pollution

(mb) CITY—RUBBER FARMING DOES NOT only bring financial benefits but also helps clean the air, a local expert said.

Natural rubber is current to its high demand to be environment-friendly because of the expansion of the automobile market of China and the expected growth of other key industrial countries.

Fort Jr. Dagoon Alcala, vice president for research and extension of the University of South-western Mindanao in Kidapawan, North Cotabato, said trees from growing thousand grass, rubber could help in reducing carbon concentration.

Alcala said mature rubber trees have the capacity "to sequester carbon."

He said based on initial results of a study which he did on specific, it was found that a hectare of at least 2.5 year-old tree is capable of absorbing a cubic meter of carbon from the atmosphere.

"If the calculation is confirmed, natural rubber-producing countries can claim carbon credits based on the Kyoto Protocol," Alcala, also executive director of the Philippine Rubber Board Inc. (PRBI), said.

Rubber's role in reducing the air is one of the jobs being used by the PRBI in pushing for the renewable cultivation of the hevea tree, the country.

PRBI said it aims to increase the country's rubber land to 1.5 million hectares from the current 1,00,000 hectares.

The provinces of Basilan, Zamboanga Sibugay and North Cotabato comprise the country's largest producers of natural rubber which accounts the country's oldest rubber estates.

Alcala said Mindanao alone has a potential to expand its rubber area to 1.2 million hectares "without disturbing existing croplands."

Apart from substantial land available for cultivation, Alcala said Mindanao also has favorable weather, Ryan Rosauro, PIA Mindanao Bureau


SONY

like.no.other™

*I'm leaving for San Francisco tomorrow.*
*I'll be pursuing my studies for another year.*
***Good thing I already bought my Cyber-shot here in the Philippines.***

For someone like Joan, studying abroad & getting a Sony Cyber-shot here in the Philippines are two of the best decisions she's ever made.

Because she knows that by buying here, she can:
- Choose among Sony's wide range of the latest Cyber-shot models available
- Get great freebies like Cyber-shot accessories and take advantage of competitive prices from Sony dealers
- Opt to have her Cyber-shot serviced or repaired in 45 countries such as USA, Canada, Singapore, Hongkong, Taiwan, UK and UAE and, still continues to benefit from the local warranty* even when she comes back home—all for a very reasonable price.

So for Miss Joan, Sonny on a Sony Cyber-shot might here right now!
*applicable to Sonny Corp

Simply Choose The Warranty Option That's Best For You!

Option 1 — 3 Year LOCAL Warranty

Option 2 — 1 Year TOTAL LIMITED WARRANTY (TLW)

Option 3 — 3 Year LOCAL Warranty & 1 Year Tourist Limited Warranty (TLW)

SONY DIGITAL *Surprises!*

Contact us to get hold of a FREE copy of Sony's promo catalogue at 878-7600 or visit our website at www.sony.com.ph!
*Promo period: Feb. 16, 2006 to Mar. 31, 2006. See posters for details.*

www.sony.com.ph


## ROUNDUP

### Farmer held for slay

### Army man charged

### Higher port revenue

### 2 soldiers wounded

### 'Truth caravan'

### Bomb material seized

# Mild quake hits 3 Mindanao cities

DAVAO CITY—A MILD EARTHQUAKE HIT at least three cities in Mindanao yesterday morning.

No one was injured in the quake that lasted for several seconds.

Professor Teofilo Yap, senior analyst of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) in Southern Mindanao, said the tremor, with its epicenter at 120 kilometers off the coastal deep southeast of Davao Oriental, struck at around 9:49 a.m.

The quake of tectonic origin registered intensity 5 in the Richter scale in General Santos City and intensity 2 in the cities of Davao and Koronadal, Tagbayo said.

The Office of Civil Defense in Southern Mindanao said no additional was reported.

With the exception of some parts of Mindanao over the weekend, Tagbayo said the same was true.

SPAZIO BERNARDO
The Art of Quality Living
PHINMA
City Living Made Easy
812-PPHC (7742)
0917-812-PPHC (7742)
0922-812-PPHC (7742)
www.spaziobernardo.com
Greenwood Realty: 929-6584
Bonnybrook Realty: 559-7138




Get more for less. Get the 3-in-1 insurance package that's as money smart as you are!

You're on a roll. Your career is at its peak, and you know there's no time to worry about unforeseen events. That's why getting yourself an Insular Life Money Back Plan is one of the smartest moves you'll ever make. Get covered with life, accident and hospital care—in one neat package! It's nice to know that there's as much as P6 million in cash benefits to cushion your loved ones should anything happen to you. On the other hand, if you stay healthy during the paying period, you get all your premiums back! Thanks to Insular Life, you can stay cool, and focus on reaching greater heights in your career.

The high-benefit, value for money, 3-in-1 plan!

The BEST VALUE Insurance Package for ages 20-55 years old!

Know the 3-in-1 plan now!

P2 Million
P2,000,000 Life Insurance Protection
That provides cash benefits from death due to natural causes during the ten-year paying period.

P2 Million
P2,000,000 Accidental Death Benefit
That doubles your benefit in case of death due to accident. Your beneficiaries will receive as much as P4 MILLION PESOS IN CASH.

P2 Million
P2,000,000 Hospitalization Benefit
Get as much as P1,000 a day or P30,000 per month for the 2006 up to a maximum of P2,000,000. Benefits start on the first day of confinement due to accident or injury and on the fourth day if due to sickness.

Your Money Back Guaranteed!
IF YOU STAY HEALTHY and no claims are made during the ten-year period of the policy, you get all your cash back! Money Back Plan will return all the premiums you paid in ten years. It's savings and protection at the same time!

3-in-1 Money Back PLAN

Choose the plan that's best for you.

Amount of Benefits

| | PLAN 250 | PLAN 500 | PLAN 1000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Life Insurance Protection | P 250,000 | P 500,000 | P1,000,000 |
| Accidental Death Benefit | P 250,000 | P 500,000 | P1,000,000 |
| Hospitalization Benefit | P 250,000 | P 500,000 | P1,000,000 |

Amount of Premiums

| AGE | PLAN 250 Monthly | PLAN 500 Monthly | PLAN 1000 Monthly |
|---|---|---|---|
| 20-25 | P 202.80 | 309.50 | 1,019.00 |
| 26-30 | 240.80 | 600.50 | 1,219.00 |
| 40-45 | 300.80 | 759.50 | 1,519.00 |
| 46-51 | 387.80 | 969.50 | 1,939.00 |
| 46-50 | 463.80 | 1,159.50 | 2,319.00 |
| 51-55 | 555.80 | 1,389.50 | 2,779.00 |
| 56-60 | 663.80 | 1,659.50 | 3,319.00 |

Apply now! Here's how.

Get your Money Back Plan now!
Enrollment Ends:
MAR. 16, 2006
For more info CALL our hotlines!

Money Back PLAN APPLICATION FORM
YES! I want my 3-in-1 protection!

INSULAR LIFE

# Danger signs of landslides

By Yeeshin Dingias
Phil Central Luzon Bnd

WATCHING OUT FOR SIGNS of a landslide can save lives.

Standing objects like trees, poles, poles and fences that tilt give hints of ground movement and the possible loosening of soil and rocks, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Cracks on mountain slopes and loose deposits indicate that these are even visible areas and are prone to trigger landslides, Phivolcs chief Renato Solidum said.

Solidum asked people to stay away from steep slopes covered by streams and cracks that can loosen the soil and other debris downstream.

He also asked people to look out for road cuts, which indicate that the soil underneath is weak.

In the case of the killer landslide in 24, Barangay, Southern Leyte, Solidum said heavy rainfall in the area—400 millimeters in one Feb. 1 to 16 rain, paired with the incredibly steep of 127 area—more likely triggered the disaster.

"There had been so much rain in the area and water added to the weight of the soil," Solidum said.

The presence in the area of a fault zone that generates earthquakes was a contributor to factor, he said.

A volcano, Mt. Bulusan, lies 16 to 30 kilometers that has been inactive and the tremors there on Friday could not have been caused by volcanic activity, according to Solidum.

### Install rain gauges

Geologist Arnulfo Calonzing of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau earlier asked landslide-prone upland villages in the Central Luzon areas of the Bicol Mabat and Zambales mountain ranges to install low-priced rain gauges because very few of these instruments had been installed by the weather bureau.

Rain gauges are used to measure the amount of rainfall in a particular area. The level of water trapped in a container as storms hours can help upland villages know if heavy rains had fallen in the area.

Calonzing said the measurement every hours to guard against landslides and flash floods.

The provinces of Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan and Tarlac in Central Luzon, and the mountainous villages in Quezon were hit by landslides and floods in November and December 2004. The disaster left more than 1,000 dead and about 5,000 families homeless.

### PVC pipe

The improvised rain gauges, according to Calonzing, could use PVC pipes that are four inches in diameter. The top should be open to catch the rainfall while the bottom should be well sealed to prevent dripping.

This, he said, should be placed in an open space on a common area such as a school, barangay hall or chapel.

Another should erase or handy to measure the water level. When the level reaches 100 mm, or 10 centimeters in less than five hours, Calonzing said this should be taken as sign by residents to evacuate to safer ground.

Village officials should designate a person to measure the rainfall regularly and a team to share the information with the other villagers.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration coordinates rains to an area heavy if gauges measure 7.5 mm or less in Aipan, Calonzing said. 300 mm of rainfall was the standard warning for possible landslides.

Residents must also consider the number of days rains have drenched an area. If the amounts fall was saturated for days, or happened during the wet monsoon or typhoon in 2004, another rainfall could trigger a landslide.

Residents should also watch out for damming or the peaks of hills and mountains. A sign to watch out for is when there's unusual flooding in a dam, even without it raining, Calonzing said.

CHOPPERS scan ruins in riverine limbs of St. Bernard to continue a search and rescue mission in the landslide-hit portion of this town.

## Officials . . .

Pronouncing At

sentinel Services Administration (Pagasa). Lo Nilo is a weather phenomenon characterized by heavy rains.

In fact, in the next 24 hours, heavy rains brought by Lo Nilo are expected to hit Davao Oriental, the Cotabato provinces and the Caraga region,—all in Mindanao, Pagasa said.

Without citing specific places, Cruz said landslides, in fact, had already been reported in other areas of the country. (See story on Page 14.)

### Mapping

Cruz said the government had begun mapping out the areas prone to floods and landslides. Once the list is ready, he will ask the media to help disseminate the information.

Officials of the National Disaster Coordinating Council will also discuss the matter with governors, mayors and village chiefs.

The Senate committee on housing and urban development yesterday asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to promptly publish the list of all landslide and disaster-prone areas in the country so as to squarely face with the public.

Committee chair Sen. Eduardo Ermita of Batangas said the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) had come up with a landslide susceptibility map as early as 2004 but nothing was done to warn those information to local government units (LGUs).

Ermita said the MGB report would be useful in the government's assessment of what had been done to relocate LGUs about the map.

He lamented that the MGB had failed to issue the necessary warning to residents of St. Bernard and, thus, the catastrophic landslide that buried an entire village in the town.

### Preventable

"The MGB board update is on how they have delineated where information dissemination, how far their landslide susceptibility map," said Ermita.

On Saturday, an official of an environment-protection group blamed the government for failing to take safety measures that could have prevented the landslide.

Cresencio Ibarra, national coordinator of Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, said the government had identified St. Bernard as a landslide-prone area in 2003.

AMONG those headed to the road area as rescue still declaring in this photo album, perhaps the only recently possessions that is you before the was buried alive.

He said the deaths could have been prevented, if not minimized, if the government had acted early enough by instituting a massive relocation program and by setting up a locally-based early warning system.

"There should be proper information dissemination of all disaster-prone areas to prevent landslides and other disasters. A publication of all areas that are vulnerable to landslides should be the first step in educating and forewarning our people," Ebdalin said.

### Early warning

There are three things that local officials can do to prepare for a disaster, officials said.

One is to evacuate the residents to safer ground. Another is to apply an engineering solution to an impending disaster, such as the building of dikes. The third and cheapest way is to set up an early warning system, such as the one now in use in Aurora and Quezon provinces.

Cruz assured how residents in flood-prone areas in Southern Luzon had placed posts that can measure the rise of water to a level.

Meanwhile, Lo Nilo spin, would move that the people resolve leave their homes for high ground.

In Quezon, where the worst casualties level 4, the confusion in the place is to ring the church bells. One person would ride a bike telling the people that the water is rising. There are many temporary and evacuation centers. So set up early warning devices," the defense secretary said.

The Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC) has urged the government to adopt concrete measures to address the causes of people's vulnerability to disasters.

CDRC advocacy officer Raffaella Ann Ponce said in a statement that an average of 317 disasters hits the country every year, affecting millions of Filipinos.

She noted a rising frequency in disasters during the last decade and a subsequent increase in the number of people affected. Last year, a total of 10.4 million people were affected by natural disasters. Ten years ago, 4.08 disasters affected 9.8 million people.

"One would assume that given these disasters, a comprehensive disaster management system and program should have already been in place and a separate government body that gives special and undivided attention to the many kinds of disaster management existed," CDRC said.

Unsurprisingly, the CDRC observed, the disaster response system in the country was reactive, emergency-focused and relief-centered.

The group noted that while the government was allotting more than 30 percent of its annual budget to foreign debt servicing, it was setting aside a measly 0.1 percent for calamity funds.

For his part, Ben Bernardo, campaigner-director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia, urged the government to address the root causes of logging and climate change.

"There had been warnings that the continued threats of flash-action logging and an increase in extreme weather events caused by climate change would intensify the impact of disasters," Bernardo said in another statement. With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau


HOSPITAL HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM AT MERCURY DRUG STORE
2nd Flr. Glorietta 3, Makati

Caring for you in Every Way!

- Surgical Gloves Sterile
- Gauze Pad
- Kelly's Pad
- Flexible Bandage
- Male Urinal
- Surgical Hospital Gauze
- Invalid Ring
- Examination Gloves
- Nelaton Catheter
- Eye Pads
- Irrigating Syringe
- Non-Woven Swab
- Cotton Fillet Gauze
- Bed Pan
- First Aid Kit
- Hot Water Bag
- Wedding Sheet
- Wooden Tongue Depressors
- Medical Plaster
- Operating Sponge
- Umbilical Cord Clamp
- Water Bottle Fountain Syringe
- Urine Bag
- Under Pads

MC McBride FAMILY
The One You Trust!

Exclusively Distributed by:
Medical Center Trading Corp.
Pioneer St., Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tels. 631-1713; 631-8555; 637-9504
Fax (632) 631-7869 E-mail Address: medcen@info.com.ph

MANILA 711-8376 | DAVAO 222-4484 | LIPA 757-3811
PASIG 631-1715 | PAMPANGA 961-7682 | TAGAYTAY 568 7990
CEBU 254-3363 | ILOILO 320-1853 | CAGAYAN DE ORO 858 8789

Available at mercury drug Stores Nationwide


## Amsterdam . . .

Pronouncing At

[illegible] opening their doors and [illegible] their red curtains, hundreds of tourists and locals entered the supposedly to see a prostitute's bedroom, watch a head live peep show or chat with sex workers.

Harrowing reports of forced prostitution and human trafficking have caused a public outcry in recent months and even prompted calls from councilors for the 800-year-old red light district to be shut down, to the face of many sex workers.

Stories of gang crimes and gang violence all to dedicate.

"The open day is not only to promote the red light district but also to help change the image of the area because we think it is not negative," said organizer Machiel Mooij, a former prostitute who now runs an information center for the district.

"There are not just problems here," she said.

Prostitution has been fully legal in the Netherlands since 2000, and sex workers are self-employed and subject to tax.

However, one rights group estimates that around 3,000 women are trafficked to the Netherlands each year from eastern Europe and Asia to work in street brothels or illegal escort agencies, where they are often held against their will.

Tourist authorities admit the district—a clutch of narrow alleys and canals lined with sex shops, brothels and neon signs—is as big an attraction to Amsterdam's footsteps and coffee shops, where marijuana is freely [illegible] sold.

Every night, visitors throng the streets, agog at the scantily clad women sitting behind large red-lit windows, but only a fraction venture inside.

"This is a very good idea," said 28-year-old Dutchman Maarten Bowers, grinning after experiencing his first ever [illegible] at the Bar La Vie en Prose.

"I've never been inside anywhere like this before ... it's pretty casual, not as tense as how it's imagined," he said. Reuters

# A Personal and Collective Privilege Speech on Serious Revenue Generation and On the Term-Sharing Agreement at the Committee on Ways & Means

By: Congressman Herminio G. Teves

February 13, 2006

Mr. Speaker, fellow members of this august body, I rise as a Personal and collective Privilege on the matter of revenue generation and the term sharing agreement of the Chairmanship at the Committee on Ways & Means.

This representation served diligently as former Vice Chairman of said committee in the 13th, 14th and now the 12th Congress. I have always been passionate about revenue generation. I believe that it is only through higher revenues that we can balance the budget and reduce our dependence on borrowings. But for me, here then we come in for simple because we touch revenue per type of tax meant the tax rate is reduced, billion and profit in the country's case no collective agencies, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

I have formerly proposed several measures that are designed to reduce or minimize corruption in our revenue collection as well as institute several economic moves at the BIR. I personally believe that with these proposed measures we will be able to maximize revenue take and thereby, achieve a balanced budget the manner possible time.

A contentious proposal from this representative is the deletion of the secrecy and confidentiality provisions in tax payments under the 1997 Tax Code. This will help institute transparency and reduce corruptions between taxpayers and tax collectors. Such constitutes is the biggest source of graft and tax evasion thereby here draining the government's coffers for quite a long time.

I also introduced the Presidents Revenue Plan an **Executive Task Force be created to estimate potential revenue per type of tax**, such as individual income tax, corporate income tax, value-added tax, excise tax, etc., **and other Task Force that will undertake audit on collection vis-a-vis potential revenues**. Nobody is currently assigned to audit revenue collection, not even the Commission on Audit (COA).

On the restructure of excise taxes, the **DOF advocated for the recontextualization of taxpaid based on current market prices** to generate a revenue of P27.7 billion. The World Health Organization recommended that cigarettes must be taxed high initially to either counteract or make it prohibitively expensive so as to generate revenue and curb smoking habits of locals, especially among the youth. President GMA herself made a public pronouncement that **"there is need to address the harmful effects of the so-called sin products" by instituting an adjustment in the tax rates thereon vis-a-vis the actual market retail price.**

Congress, however, watered down the proposed indexation of sin taxes and instead approved a mere 20% increase in the tax rates. Even representatives voted 166 to 46 to defeat the indexation move. Thus, we are succumbed to the financial constraints on the said tax measure, after which I published an article on the subject **"How serious are we in raising revenue for our government"**. Mr Speaker, registered cumbersome actual revenue collection from the Sin Tax Law registered at a shortfall P2.96 billion last year, 60% short from the projected P5.0 billion additional revenue from the excise taxes. (Business World, February 2, 2006)

Chairman Lopez designated this Representative as Chair of the sub-committee on oversight, Amendatory Remedies, and sub-committee authorized several inter-agency meetings and conducted in-depth studies on each type of tax and came up with estimates of potential number of taxpayers and expected revenue vis-a-vis BIR's collection. It was uncovered that there are no loopholes in our tax system that needs to be addressed if the government is indeed serious in generating the much needed revenues without resorting to borrowing.

**On the Individual Income Tax: 2004 Collection is P 95.0 billion whereas the potential collection is estimated at P 450 billion.**

It was uncovered that the potential number of tax payers on individual income tax alone is approximately 7.07 million based on statistical data from 1980, LTO, DOF and Bureau of Local Government Finance, IRS and CSC. On estimates withholding from commercial entities, the average income of employees with wages ranging from P4,000 annually to 1,750,000 a year, the number that paid under the centralized filing mechanism is 2,053,396, a difference of 4,230,819. This poses a shortfall in collection pertaining to a minimum of P315 billion. The BIR use the 50% Z tax on file of employees who could have withheld the income tax from their employers but failed to remit the same to the BIR.

**On self-employed individuals**. The BIR database showed 1.16 million self-employed members but BIR is self-employed individual taxpayers only totalled 435,076 or a mere 0.2% of the potential. If we compare this to the data of the LTO, there are approximately 1,665,000 privately owned cars and trucks registered.

In 2000, the number of self-employed individuals who filed income tax returns totaled 696,565 and those who actually paid only totaled 29,685 with payments amounting to P 0.054 B and P 7,335.0 in withholding at source, a total of only P 12,440 or 12.29% of the tax paid by employees to withholding.

**On the Corporate Income Tax: The 2004 Collection is P 131.46 billion whereas the projected CIT would amount to P 300 billion.**

The number of corporations registered with BIC is 856,076 while actual number that filed corporate income tax (CIT) is 113,502 or 86% of total number of BIC registrants. The number of companies that actually paid their CIT is 10,434 or 10.49% paid CIT amounting to P 131.146 Billion.

Based on the Department of Finance (Finance) statistics, BIR claimed to maintain a System for CRIF and BIR for lists of corporations by location, primary purpose of business activity, capitalization, and major incorporators in order for the BIR and the CRIF to be able to extract information submitted to them by companies. Similarly, the net income data use on each payer of industries and corporations should also be given to the BIR.

**Value Added Tax (VAT) – the most abused form of tax by taxpayers.**

In 2004 total taxable sales of 611,330 persons is P9.078 billion while the non-taxed sales and exempt sales are P600.0048 and P 471.2098 respectively. There are non-included in the output VAT computations. The total VAT collected amounted to only P 0.7.0038 or 1.8% of sales **whereas the projected VAT is P 124.54 billion.**

The government needs to collect 5% sales tax on most goods and services, however, this was replaced by a 10% VAT. It is native now though that because of certain loopholes in the VAT system coupled with abuses on input VAT deduction and corruption, the VAT revenue collected is very much lower than what could have been collected on the 5% sales tax.

**Bureau of Internal Revenue Summary of Quarterly VAT (2003)- For Year 2004**

| Qtr. | Taxable Sales | Zero-rated sales | Exempt sales/receipts | Total Output Tax | Total Input Tax | VAT PAID | Effective VAT Rate | No. of Filed Returns |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1ST/Q | 54,960.9 | 4,627.8 | 385,644.9 | 5,496.0 | 4,952.0 | 853,8000 | 1.68 | 8,565 |
| 2/Q | 1,120.7 | 304.0 | 847,401.8 | 112,141.0 | 110,226.0 | 42,216.0 | 1.69 | 8,565 |
| 3RD | 58,125.8 | 28,909.8 | 9,102.8 | 58,125.8 | 52,113.0 | 5,70.9 | 1.47 | 36,434 |
| 4th/A | 307,215.0 | 66,649.9 | 4,119.0 | 30,721.0 | 30,649.0 | 3,999.0 | 1.89 | 48,334 |
| QUT | 482,99.0 | 34,116.8 | 38,82.8 | 89,30.8 | 48,213.0 | 12,01.8 | 1.94 | 76,237 |
| **TOTAL** | **1,068.7** | **469.09 B** | **471.21 B** | **296.08 B** | **220.61 B** | **72.89 B** | **1.70** | **164,336** |

The 17 half of 2005 (excluding Cebu) shows a total sales of P 1,0.1.19MB, the zero-rated is P556,910.0 and exempt sales is 2024.72. The net push is only P 18,730 B or 1.07% less than one percent (1%) of sales. On sales to exempt entities about 9107 deficiency in P15.12 B in 2004 and 832,470 in the 1st half of 2005.

**January – June 2005**

| Qtr. | Taxable Sales | Zero-rated sales | Exempt sales/receipts | Total Output Tax | Total Input Tax | VAT PAID | No. of Filed Returns |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CEBU | DATA NOT YET AVAILABLE | | | | | | |
| 1/Q | 606,088 | 212.37 B | 216.19 B | 78.84 B | 51.41 B | 6.70 B | 1,746 |
| 2/Q | 99.95 B | 28.82 B | 9.17 B | 16.34 B | 12.92 B | 1.59 B | 35,029 |
| 3/Q | 20.32 B | 25.88 B | 2.05 B | 5.46 B | 265.49 M | 951 M | 23,119 |
| 4/Q | 176.30 B | 26.89 B | 6.34 B | 28.37 B | 24.17 B | 3.43 B | 36,813 |
| **TOTAL** | **903.81 B** | **294.09 B** | **234.71 B** | **128.02 B** | **88.77 B** | **14.69 B** | **116,758** |

In my letter to BIR Commissioner dated Nov. 21, 2005, I questioned why the BIR did not implement Revenue Regulation No. 1-98 Section 4 where the taxpayer to allow VAT registered person to automatically deduct their sales as exempt and zero rated in their output VAT declaration in writing. Similarly, I mentioned that under Revenue Regulation No. 9-95 provisions on invoice transaction states that "where the no payee is engaged in zero rated and effectively zero rated sales and as well as taxable transactions, the purchases, sales of goods and services and the amount relevant thereto, input tax could cannot be directly and entirely attributed to outputs or the transactions. It shall be allotted proportionately to each category of transactions. BIR's answer is totally failed all input VAT to the related output VAT is a double voluntary to our government. The point that I stressed to and letter was met with a deafening silence.

The telecommunications is now the biggest and most profitable industry. The PLDT, the leading telecom company, is expected to report P 70 B in net income for CY 2005.

This industry has a huge potential VAT revenue if the BIR is not remiss in their tax collection efforts. In a letter addressed to Hon Eduardilario, Pete, Hon. Efren Mesiquial dawayo dated January 26, 2006 that was entered through the Honorable Speaker Jose de Venecia, this Representative conveyed the tax payments of the three major telecom players. For PLDT, VAT payments as percentage to sales is quite low. For 1999 it was 1.28%, in 2000 -0.83%, 2001 - 1.13%, 2002 1.44%, 2003 1.78%, and 2004 - 2.58%.

For Globe telecom, their VAT payments as percentage of their sales is as follows: 1999 negative 14.9%, 2000 negative 0.59%, 2001 negative 1.08%, 2002 negative 0.19%, 2003 negative 0.01 % and 2004 - positive 0.40%

For Globe to 2004 exempt sales is P439.1 M or 0.96% while sales to zero rated entities is 191.105 B or 1.28%, a total of P1,324 B or 4.26% considered non-taxable.

For Smart telecom, their VAT payments as percentage to their sales is as follows: 1999 - 1.69%, 2000- negative 0.68%, 2001 - positive 2.38%, 2002 positive 0.35%, 2003 – positive 0.48% and 2004 negative 0.56%.

In 2004, Smart's alleged sale to exempt entities is Ph 754 B or 0.7% to zero-rated entities P15.543 B or 10.93% a total of P32.769 or 27.75% considered non-taxable.

**History on VAT payment of the Three (3) Major Telecom's Companies:**

**PLDT**

| Year | Total Sales | Exempt Sales | Zero Rated Sales | Output VAT | Input VAT | Input VAT Carried Over | Tax Payable | VAT Paid as % to total sales | Reference to VAT payments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | P 83,977.0 | P 1,074.0 | P 4,612.0 | P 7,497.0 | P 6,370.0 | P 1,127.0 | 0 | 1.28% | |
| 2000 | 86,570.0 | 1,062.0 | 3,950.0 | 7,788.0 | 7,067.0 | none | 721.0 | 0.83% | |
| 2001 | 89,106.0 | 1,111.0 | 3,811.0 | 7,970.0 | 7,063.0 | 1,127.0 | 907.0 | 1.13% | |
| 2002 | 91,128.0 | 1,124.0 | 3,811.0 | 8,199.0 | 7,072.0 | 1,127.0 | 1,127.0 | 1.44% | |
| 2003 | 91,205.0 | 1,124.0 | 3,811.0 | 8,208.0 | 6,981.0 | none | 1,227.0 | 1.78% | |
| 2004 | 91,205.0 | 1,124.0 | 3,811.0 | 8,208.0 | 6,981.0 | none | 1,227.0 | 2.58% | |

**GLOBE**

| Year | Total Sales | Exempt Sales | Zero Rated Sales | Output VAT | Input VAT | Input VAT Carried Over | Tax Payable | VAT Paid as % to total sales | Reference to VAT payments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | P 3,105.0 | none | none | P 387.7 M | P 824.0 M | (P 436.3 M) | (P 0) | 14.9% | |
| 2000 | 3,864.0 | none | none | 3,864.0 | 3,886.0 | (P 22.0 M) | (P 0) | 0.59% | |
| 2001 | 19,175.0 | none | none | 3,937.0 | 4,131.0 | (P 194.0) | (P 0) | 1.08% | |
| 2002 | 20,175.0 | none | none | 3,937.0 | 3,975.0 | (P 38.0 M) | (P 0) | 0.19% | |
| 2003 | 20,175.0 | none | none | 3,937.0 | 3,937.0 | (P 0) | (P 0) | 0.01% | |
| 2004 | 20,175.0 | none | none | 3,937.0 | 3,937.0 | (P 0) | (P 0) | 0.40% | |

**SMART**

| Year | Total Sales | Exempt Sales | Zero Rated Sales | Output VAT | Input VAT | Input VAT Carried Over | Tax Payable | VAT Paid as % to total sales | Reference to VAT payments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | P 8,500.0 | none | none | P 950.4 M | P4,565 M | (P 3.67 M) | (P 0) | 1.69% | |
| 2000 | 11,560.0 | none | none | 2,446 B | 2,463 B | none | (P 0.5) | 0.68% | |
| 2001 | 11,560.0 | none | none | 2,446 B | 2,463 B | none | (P 0.5) | 2.38% | |
| 2002 | 14,830.0 | 1,000.0 | 1,000.0 | 2,966.0 | 2,947.0 | (P 19.0) | (P 0.5) | 0.35% | |
| 2003 | 16,830.0 | (P 1,000.0) | 1,000.0 | 4,196.0 | 3,871.0 | (P 19.0) M | (P 0) | 0.48% | (P 1,000,971.0) |
| 2004 | 17,962.0 | 4,510.0 | 1,000.0 | 4,510.0 | 3,598.0 | none | 0.577 | 0.48% | (P 1,000,971.0) |
| 2005 | 16,695.0 | 4,510.0 | 1,000.0 | 4,510.0 | 3,598.0 | none | 0.577 | 0.56% | (P 1,000,971.0) |

It is apparent that from 1999 – 2005 Smart had no sales to exempt and zero-rated and for Globe only in 2004 that declared exempt and zero-rated sales, why?

While companies pay the whole of 10% VAT, it appears, however, that this is not being remitted to the government. What is the reason to allow taxpayers to zero-rate sales to exempt and zero-rated as entities and even declare those input VAT thereby reducing amount of tax, disregarding BIR's Regulation RMC 37-96, Section 4 of RR 1-98 and RR 9-95 with regards to exempt and zero-rated sales.

Not only are the claimers of this telecommunication industry not declaring as output VAT on their sales to exempt and zero-rated entities. They are not paying VAT on the sales of **call cards** that consumers claim to be the biggest bulk of their sales. The reason given is that the payment of VAT shall be made upon the utilization of the card, to continue to collect taxes that are automatically collected upon withdrawal of the goods from the warehouse. As to why the BIR agreed to such agreement remains a puzzle.

This representative is doubtful whether the proposed additional revenue on the expanded VAT from 10% to 12% and the 12% VAT on food, power, air and water transports can be realized if the systemic errors in the VAT collection as mentioned above are not addressed. The VAT is a tax on consumption VAT on operational capital goods and services is 12%. Similarly, the input VAT on capital expense of the power, oil, air and water transport industries may not be totally utilized after five years to what happens to the telecommunications players whose VAT on capital expense with seven years to be utilized.

Undertaking all these proposals to increase tax collection from individual income tax hold from the withholding of employees and from self-employed individuals, increase number of corporate taxpayers corresponding increase in corporate income tax (CIT) and revenue collection of value-added tax based on existing BIR Revenue and Regulations in the matter will more than generate revenue enough to achieve a balanced budget.

If however, our leaders are anxious to have additional revenue to finance important projects and increase fiscal productivity and excellent measures are viable income for our people, we need not hesitate to tax that is disbursed to program in productivity health care and to consumers. Instead of VAT on fuel and power which spread so much suffering to our communities and countryside, the proposed increase in excise taxes on cars and cigarettes, consumer items such as appliances, cosmetics, wine and religious sectors. This representation proposes the tax on car not averaging, not as unfriendly VAT but direct tax on 1000 averaging. Data shows that there are approximately 300 million new cars/cigars and through the Bureau of Customs, the BIR can collect the additional revenue generated from the proposed P 0.75 billion annually. This is almost double the expected annual P 38 billion from the VAT on petroleum products and on taxes the expected P9 billion annually from the VAT on electricity. The revenues that could be realized from this can be earmarked for food production.

Further Mr. Speaker, I propose that the BIR vigorously collect VAT from the left companies. Even if these left companies are subject to VAT, they are not withholding. I fix the assets that the VAT Regulatory Board has not issued an order directing left companies to include the VAT to their left sales. If collected properly, the VAT from these left companies could create as much as P 70 billion per month since they have an aggregate monthly left revenue of P 700 billion.

Mr. Speaker, my personal colleagues, this Representative has consistently and diligently worked for the country's efficient revenue collection, which is parallel to the recommendations of Moody's. I have spearheaded in investigative and issues to project potential revenues per type of tax long before my star was appointed as Finance Secretary.

**On matters concerning the term-sharing as Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee,** there are a few things that have to be clarified.

Before our Chairman administration, a signature campaign was undertaken among members of the MPC requesting the Speaker to retain Cong. Lopez as Chairman. I was requested by other members of LAKAS to undertake similar signature campaign. I refused for the simple reason that it is an unnecessary because the **Speaker himself has forged a gentlemen's agreement.**

A separate media campaign ensued, attacking this Representative vying for the Chairmanship of the Committee. The issue raised against me were burdening along the line of absentee, one of which is my being silly, then conflict of interest since my son Gary is the Secretary of Finance. It was published that Gilbert and son-in-laws will run me in the country wall.

Conflict of interest exists when one of us is known to be corrupt, if not of an law function interests to protect. The House committee, I organization, how only Anthony says and "that if the department is still be appointed as chairman on the Ways & Means Committee, it would not be on a house because the one is the DOF "secretary". Conflict of interests are suggestions and any favorable hereby members may, as what happened under the House regime, among events engaged in corrupt practices.

Congress is now proposing a Parliamentary form of government where the executive and legislative department will merge hence eventually the Secretary of Finance will serve as the Chairman of Committees on Ways & Means.

Now, on the term-sharing of the Chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Speaker, I want things to be on proper perspective for the record of this august body. When I brought up this matter on the agenda since during with the Speaker, he was willing to give me the Chairmanship **if and when my son Gary gives up his cabinet position as Secretary of Finance, "I said no way".**

In the Business World article entitled "Outlook on BIF mixed" (dated Feb. 10-11, 2006) states "In a report Moody's ... attributed the recent positive outlook to the country's improving economic performance, the government's progress in improving tax collections, pass the 2006 budget, and make assurances that recent economic policies will continue before the "downward pressure" on the country's credit ratings is reversed".

In the Business World article of February 2, 2006 it was stated that the House Ways & Means Committee has shifted from to tax compliance. This representative is of the belief that the Speaker and the House Committee on Ways & Means will now be implementing what I have long been advocating these past 3 terms. Tax collection efficiency must be made a priority to promote transparency in tax collection. Getting the honesty and confidentiality provisions in our Tax Code and not just enhance faith-based audit reporting because Tax Commission is still address corruption problems as such input VAT and illegal deductions of exempt and zero rated sales on the Output V. AT should also be scrutinized. The telecom industry players had experienced enormous gains yet they have huge amounts of questionable sales including outright declaration on variable sales on call cards. The zero declaration of input vat and their reduced V AT liabilities is draining our government from the much-needed revenues. With respect to the VAT on the sales of these products, it needs to be immediately reconsidered so the consumers and the government are not placed in a disadvantaged position by the players.

With these premises Mr. Speaker, it is not necessary for me to be Chairman of the Committee on Ways & Means considering that this administration in cooperation with the entire House under your leadership has now decided to pursue my collective efficiency instead of implement over me that burden our consumers and entrepreneurs. To this end, let me be clear that I have no other interest that to protect the interests of our people mainly the poor consumers and the welfare of our government.

Thank you.

AS A STALLION rescue helicopter hovers over them, Lt. Jennifer Mercer and other US soldiers shut their rolled goods at the evacuation center. Communist guerrillas have pledged to leave the American alone, if they remain true to their enemy mission.

A US OFFICER poses with the cordon children at the evacuation center at the St. Bernard Central School.

LANDSLIDE RESCUE MISSION

# US soldiers land in Leyte

# Rebs guarantee safety of GIs on rescue mission

By Volt Contreras

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN LEYTE—Only three months ago, their image took a beating in street protests, public forums and congressional hearings after four of their men were accused of raping a Filipino woman at the Subic Freeport.

But controversy took a backseat yesterday as American soldiers taking part in the "Balikatan" exercises began arriving here to take part in rescue and relief efforts for victims of a landslide that buried an entire village.

The humanitarian contingent was mainly from the US 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit based in Okinawa, where the rape suspects were also stationed prior to being held under US Embassy custody to face trial.

Thunderous Blue helicopters landing near an evacuation center announced the presence of the US military volunteers in this grief-stricken town.

At least 15 US soldiers were seen arriving up a command post at the municipal hall grounds.

Another group of officers, including a Filipino-American chaplain, surveyed the disaster site.

2nd Lt. Edward Rushing said his initial assessment showed that up to 75 US servicemen could be deployed to assist local rescuers.

Up to 1,000 of the 6,000 US troops taking part in the "Balikatan" exercises can be tapped to assist here, said Lt. Col. Don Rinder, a chaplain of the brigade.

"I also did rescue operations in the 9-11 attacks but this is something else," said Rinder, a Filipino-American originally from Bacolod City. "What I saw was mind-boggling and horrendous. I've never seen anything like this."

"I especially feel bad about the kids," said Rushing, referring to the more than 200 children feared buried in a local school.

Visibly more organized three days after the tragedy, the rescue teams are still on a "search-and-rescue mode," said Army Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, commander of the 8th Infantry Division.

They were joined here today with more body bags and sacks of lime for new corpses to be found.

Amid the roar of bulldozers and choppers, Fr. Jose Labrador of the San Agustin Parish said Mass for the victims before noon.

COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS HAD YESterday they won't attack American troops sent to help a landslide-hit province, but insisted there are no more rebel units or counter-provocative acts.

The New People's Army guerrillas are active in Leyte island, where a massive landslide buried an entire farming village Friday, triggering fears that as many as 1,000 people may have been entombed alive.

In January, the guerrillas raided a police station in Leyte's Abuyog town, netting 31 M-16 rifles and pistols.

"The MPAs, if they would not be provoked, would not take steps against them, especially in this time of calamity," rebel spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said.

But he said the rebels would resist if the American took a direct role in any covert and counter-proxy operations and warned here their unexploded bombs under the cover of their humanitarian mission, Rosal said.

"If ensure, we don't believe that they are there for purely humanitarian reasons," he said.

The guerrillas are on US and European lists of terrorist organizations. They suspended Norwegian-brokered talks with the government in 2004, saying Manila has refused to take steps to remove them from the terror blacklists.

They have escalated attacks in recent months, hoping to help bring down President Macapagal-Arroyo who survived an impeachment last year over allegations she rigged the 2004 election. The rebels have condemned her as a US lackey. AP

# Buried school was home to math wizards

By Volt Contreras

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN LEYTE—IT WAS ONE OF THE TOWN'S best performing public schools, its pupils especially excelling in math competitions and academic exams.

But when Guinsaugon Elementary School before it became a catastrophic last Friday.

Three days after a massive landslide, the fate of pupils believed premature despite fresh pressing and of teachers dedicated to their crafting despite their meager pay, remained uncertain.

Earlier, rescuers retrieved the remains of Gloria Nuñez, the teacher-coach of the Grade-III pupils that emerged as champions in last year's Math Challenge. She also mentored this year's team that won 3rd place in the same competition.

### Team of wizards

Along with more than 50 bodies taken in a barangay hall now serving as a makeshift morgue, Nuñez was positively identified through her wedding ring, Eleanor Superintendente Erlinda Diaz said in an interview yesterday.

Presumed trapped in one of the four GES school buildings are Nuñez' 2006 team of Grade 1 math wizards, Alex Wac Wac, 10; Jhon Cappella and Marvin Bordon, according to Diaz, citing records of the annual contest among the 27 public elementary schools in St. Bernard.

The Grade I pupils' victory was no fluke: Also this year, the GES team from Grades II, III and V all placed 2nd in their respective categories, Diaz noted.

The school has long built a sterling reputation with its class performers.

Diaz said it ranked No. 2 in terms of the average score gained by its pupils across all levels during the Division Achievement Test last school year.

If other major indicators are considered, like the Division and National tests, GES was ranked 2.3 overall that same year, she said.

"It's never far behind when it comes to academics and teachers' performance," she said, saying that while Barangay Guinsaugon may be relatively poor compared to other villages, the town's enroll it having alarming cases of malnutrition or dropouts among its pupils.

### 'Idyllic spot'

The school official said GES pupils must have been "reviewing" for this year's division test scheduled on Feb. 16 covering the key subjects English, math, science and Makabayan—when disaster struck.

She believed the majority of the pupils finished with their morning lessons and were inside their classrooms when portions of nearby Mt. Kan-ibag came tumbling down on the village at around 10:30 a.m. that fateful day.

Official figures placed the number of GES students at 246.

Diaz said the campus was already there, occupying its otherwise idyllic spot by a lush mountain, the day she first moved to Mt. Bernard in 2004.

The reason the villagers had seen considered the school—or their homes...as be in a dangerous location, she noted.

That was until Mt. Kan-ibag moved and literally snapped the winning streak of the school's fledgling math Olympians and budding sportsmen.

From page A1

till corpse, relief reporters.

Asked if the sound indicated signs of life, Superintendente: "Maybe, it's possible."

His remarks dashed with an earlier statement by a Philippine National Red Cross official who said rescuers he had talked to still insisted "indications will tell that the was done there are all dead."

Romeo Dalla, information officer of the PNRC team at the landslide site, said the school was located with the help of investigators.

Dalla said he was quoting Raul del Mar, head of the Bureau of Fire Protection's search and rescue team based in Cebu.

Rescuers, for his part, said he was with another rescue team composed of 40 more members and that four of them, including himself, had heard the screaming sound between 2:30 and 3 p.m. while they were in the area where the schoolhouse was believed buried.

He said they were using instruments called Dolan, a life detection device consisting of small, microscopic phone jacket buried in the ground.

But Augusto, a member the Municipal rescuing Federation of the Philippines, could see any how far down the screaming sound had come from or if a human being was responsible for it.

A Philippine Air Force officer, who asked not to be named and who was in a separate rescue operation, said the rescue sound not necessarily indicate human movement.

"It may just be running water or insects," said the officer.

Asked at a press briefing last night if there was still hope of finding survivors, provincial Gov. Rosette Lerias emphatically replied: "Of course, there is still hope. We will have."

She recalled that in similar disasters, like the landslides that hit Quezon province in 2004, four children were recovered alive after 10 days under the rubble.

"Why can't we do that in Southern Leyte, if God will it so?" she said.

### Under 30 meters of mud

In a phone interview, Bienvenido Reyes, head of the Philippine 911 group involved in the search, clarified that no part of the school building had actually been reached by the rescuers.

Reyes said his teams, who he helped these locals guides and two dogs, only verified the specific mud-tainted area under which the school had stood.

Reyes said that as per readings made by special instruments brought to the site by another rescue team, the school lay beneath "20 to 30 meters" of mud.

Dalla said the school's location was verified at around 11 a.m. yesterday and that rescuers made several attempts to dig but these only resulted in "more mud."

The teams gave up at around 3 p.m.

### 'Please help us, ma'am'

The school's position was ascertained on the same day a local education official showed the rescuers "a text message" which she said the victims' last Saturday—or a day after the landslide—from a teacher trapped beneath the rubble.

Fe Sacla Diaz, a supervisor for the town's 27 elementary schools, said a message in Visayan that registered on her Army-issue mobile phone read (in English): "Ma'am, we are still under the school. Please help us, ma'am. This is Edilio Cagalla. Please ma'am."

Cagalla is a volunteer teacher in the GES pre-school program.

Diaz said she got the message "at around 6" by the original recipient Sofia Prieto, principal of the St. Bernard Central Elementary School. Prieto got the original message at around 5 p.m. Saturday and relayed it to Diaz at around 6 p.m. that same day, Diaz said.

Lerias said though that children could still be alive under their mud-covered school had kept rescue teams going.

But the search and rescue effort was turning in to massive retrieval operation as rescue teams had been unable to find a single survivor. Pilar they found instead were bodies in their muddy graves.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, the disaster records stating center at the municipal hall had reported 72 bodies recovered while 941 were still missing. The number of survivors stood at 415.

Above 1,500 people from different barangays were being treated in evacuation centers.

### Mass grave

Twenty-seven bodies that remained unidentified were buried in a mass grave at the public cemetery at 4:30 p.m. yesterday, after health officials raised fears of the spread of illnesses if the bodies remained exposed.

Imagine if we can find them alive, there are over 200 of them trapped inside the school," Lerias said. "I asked the people to please help us in praying that these students and teachers are all alive."

### Tunnel planned

People involved in the rescue operations in the area believe the semi-concrete school building was buried said they planned to build a tunnel to reach the victims below, believing there were high chances they could find people alive.

The search and rescue team, which included Filipino military groups, emergency response teams, mountaineers and rescuers, was assisted by American and Malaysian rescue experts.

Aside from Philippine Air Force helicopters, also involved were four Sea Knight helicopters from a US group belonging to the Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

### Rains blamed

Capt. Buriel Nuñez, public affairs officer of Fuerzas Balikatan, said the Pentagon and the US Embassy were very much concerned about the situation.

As the government began its investigation into the landslide, some residents and residents of this town still believed it was the constant rains, coupled with a mild tremor, that had pushed the earth down onto their community.

The avalanche left an area of 3 square kilometers covered with mud as deep as 15 meters.

Some survivors told the Inquirer that after almost two hours of rain, a mild earthquake shook the mountain and the landslide occurred.

Adrian Fuerge, regional chief of the Office of Civil Defense, said he was informed yesterday that the national government, through the National Disaster Coordinating Council, would begin its probe of the landslide as victims of Provincial Managed Areas.

Initially, he said, people at the regional Office of Civil Defense were working on the theory that "because of the rain, water saturated the place and loosened the earth."

He added that another theory was that the earthquake triggered the landslide.

In December 2003, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau warned that this town was among the "prohazard" areas in the country. This was shortly after a killer landslide occurred in Binaton Island, this province.

On the other hand, according to the US Geological Survey, "landslides can be initiated by rainfall, earthquakes, volcanic activity, changes in the groundwater, disturbance and change of the slope by man-made activities, or a combination of these factors."

### Sensors from Taiwan

A life-saving machine from Taiwan was on the ways to St. Bernard yesterday.

The equipment can detect movement under the ground and would be very crucial in locating those buried in the mud in Barangay Guinsaugon, officials said.

Rescuers have not been able to use heavy equipment to dig in the collapsed earth because the ground was still soft.

"If there is life underneath, they can be detected by these sensors," Defense Secretary and National Coordinating Council Chair Avelino Cruz Jr. said.

### Rumsfeld's promise

Manila help was on the way to Barangay Guinsaugon.

Some 40 seasoned miners from the Philippine Mining Safety and Environment Association left Manila yesterday with their ropes and drilling equipment. They had been involved in previous rescue operations in the country.

Cruz said US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had promised help.

The Leyte landslide again raised the perennial question of how divine Providence could allow such a tragedy, more so in a province reputedly dominated by devotees.

Manila Bishop Precioso Cantillas said: "Even in these most painful times, we believe that God sometimes is love all of us, especially those who are severely afflicted."

While each faith is tested by the disaster, we humbly ask the God of mercy and love to sustain us in our faith and to remain constant in our hope for a better life and even everlasting peace." With reports from Judge A. del Puerto and Christine U. Figueroa

SUERTRES 2 6 9 (Breakfast Draw)
EZ2 6 9
SUPERLOTTO 6/49 4 5 28 33 40 49
₱19,399,600.80
Next Grand Lotto Jackpot: ₱48 million (Tuesday) or ₱60 million (Saturday)

E-mail to: metro@inquirer.com.ph
METRO
Lito Emor G. Dipasupil

# Eusebio open to drug probe

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE MAKATI CITY GOVERNMENT YESterday promised to cooperate with various national government agencies that have been tasked to look into allegations that city officials were involved in the "one-stop shop shabu restaurant" discovered in Cebu.

"They can always come in. We are willing to cooperate," City Legal Officer Carlos Abesamis, speaking in behalf of Mayor Vicente Eusebio, told the Inquirer.

Operatives of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Force raided the shabu dens, where users can reportedly smoke and buy illegal drugs, inside a compound of shanties in Sitio Magsaysay in Barangay Luz, Talisay City, Cebu, on Feb. 10.

Police said the drug compound, just half a kilometer away from the City Hall and the Eastern Police District (EPD), could have been operating for more than a year.

### Rival links mayor to drug dens

Eusebio further drew flak when he demolished the structures, which were considered as evidences, five days after the raid, without coordinating with the national police. His political rival, Rep. Nikki Jaworski Jr., the other day even linked Eusebio to the illegal operations, claiming that a certain "Paenan" was collecting money from the shabu dens for the mayor.

Abesamis, quoting Eusebio, dismissed the allegation as plain "political posturing."

"Sir (Jaworski) just wants to destroy the reputation of the Eusebio family," he added.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez earlier ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the allegations against Pasig officials. The Department of Interior and Local Government will also be conducting a probe into the matter.

"We are open to the investigation. We have the same objective of eradicating drug addiction in the city," Abesamis added.

### Police officials under suspicion

PDEA director Chief Supt. Oscar Valmocina has taken a two-week vacation lease while Pasig City Police chief Senior Supt. Raul Medina has been relieved of his post following the discovery of the shabu dens.

Twenty-five police policemen from the district and the city police were relieved and yesterday left for the Philippine National Police facility in Sebu for retraining.

FISHFULLOOZA
Members of the militant Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya group stage their own version of the Lenapalooza! dining festival, locking lips with their scaly "dapat" partners. The unusual public display of affection last Friday was meant to highlight the group's disapproval of the appointment of farmer leader Secretary Angelo Reyes as environment secretary. (JOE ENCISO)

# Special camp for special kids

By DJ Yap

SOME OF THEM WERE AUTISTIC, OTHERS were deaf, while a few were schizophrenic, but they danced, frolicked and played like there was no tomorrow, for at Camp Pag-ibig, children will be children.

A special kind of fun-run again found at Camp Pag-ibig, as it celebrated 30 years of giving cheer and hope to hundreds of differently-abled youngsters.

Some 3,000 special kids from Metro Manila and neighboring provinces converged yesterday at the Bahay Pilipit Plaza in Diliman, Quezon City, accompanied by their parents and camp volunteers. They played games, swam in the pool, danced, and simply had fun.

### Yearly tradition dating back to 70s

Other activities lined up at Camp Pag-ibig, a yearly tradition to the city dear dates back to the mid-1970s, included skills survival training, cooking demonstrations and art appreciation lessons.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. served as camp host and honorary chair, a role he has assumed since 2001.

"Camp Pag-ibig is designed to provide children with disabilities with opportunities to enhance their socialization skill, paving the way for full integration and participation in the community," organizers said.

Like any camp, tents were set up, with dorms and resource personnel chatting to fun-filled programs. A forum was also held, in which parents talked about their concerns for their children's future.

The activities were planned and designed to make the children remember the two-day festivity for years to come, according to camp director Jorge Bunod Jr., Senate Bayron president.

### Biggest gathering ever

This year's camp was the biggest yet, with some of the delegates coming from special schools in Regions 3 and 4, said co-camp director Felinda Lalanga.

Highlighting this year's Camp Pag-ibig was the blessing and unveiling of a marker describing the camp's history for the past 30 years, followed by a thanksgiving Mass.

Camp Pag-ibig was started in 1976 by the Philippine Association for the Retarded Inc. as the highlight of National Retarded Children Week, as presided live in Presidential Proclamation No. 1,365.

## MetroBriefs

### Jogging protest

CLAD in jogging pants, t-shirts and shorts, more than 100 members of a multinational group led by Bayan Muna Rep. Jose Maria Sison gathered at the Ninoy Aquino Park yesterday morning and jogged toward the United States Embassy in Roxas Boulevard to stage a protest against the Bush administration's Arms Trade. "What the Filipino people need is regular exercise that is good for the health and not the inhumane exercises that give rise to rights abuses and the destruction of the local people's daily lives," Sison said. A small police force guarding the US Embassy gate was taken by surprise by the joggers composed mostly of women and children from Bayan Muna, Solidarity Action Network of Filipinos, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Moro Christian People's Alliance and the Bayan Kabataan party-list. —Maryan C. Ortiz

### Still waiting for justice

NEARLY a year after his death, the family of an unionized Pasig City Rep. Henry Lanot is still in the dark about who killed their son-in-law. "We are still waiting for the results of the investigation," Lanot's mother-in-law, Ken, told the Inquirer yesterday. His father, whose electrocution most against Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio is still pending at the Ombudsman Court, also said the Bonifacio Ilog land leader in a restaurant in Pasig City on April 15 last year. Lanot's supporters had claimed the assassination was politically motivated but Eusebio, who was not Lanot during the fatally contested mayoral elections two years ago, denied the allegations. —Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

### Car owner identified

BEAUFORT (AP) Sara identified the owner of a car that figured in the killing of a Cayetano informer to a Makati on Saturday. PO3 Oriel Portdrop, case investigator from the Makati Police Department's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said authorities had follow-up operations later led to the identification of the owners of a black sedan (UAC-4 84 ), identified by a witness as the car driven by the two men shot to death. Senator Cristobal, a Sta. Rosa, Laguna public information officer. But while the car owner was authorized, a man was not present in the stop. The driver withheld his name, pending further validation. "We are not sure yet whether he will name the car, because he may have sold it but failed to transfer registration," said the investigator. —Sara B. Delmendo

### Fake products seized

AGENTS of anti-counterfeit of take Louis Vuitton and Gucci products were seized during recent raids conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on some stores in Binondo and Tondo, Manila. NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division chief Jose Justo Ong said the stores owned by one Tan confirmed to counterfeiters charges. The raids conducted on Feb. 9 yielded 6,000 pieces of counterfeit Louis Vuitton bags and wallets, and 2,100 fake Gucci items. —Maryan C. Ortiz

# Start it Up!

## PLDT OnCall is for Contact Center Success

Whether your current or existing contact center or plan to start one up from scratch, you can be sure PLDT OnCall has the best managed option for you. It's made the best "outsourced" set of solutions whichever way you go. You get a set of high voice and data capabilities, top high-performance platforms and all securely and smoothly operations through multiple back-ups in a fully redundant infrastructure.

Voice operations are only the beginning of contact center potential in the country. Other BPO functions include back-office, finance, records management, automation, and a myriad of other jobs being outsourced more notably from the United States at a rate of 15% growth per year. PLDT OnCall supports voice and data, meaning that as you add other services to your offerings, you can grow seamlessly.

The PLDT OnCall platform is rated in high-availability and high-capacity. This means that you are online and running as much as possible, servicing the highest number of transactions. And that's important when you're competing with the likes of China and India. These countries are all about massive capacity. Bangalore alone introduces as many graduates as the entire Philippines does in a year, just think of how many agents and centers they can field. Rest assured PLDT OnCall will give you the quality edge.

And of course the last thing you want to think about is a system crash. With redundant server linkups and storage facilities PLDT OnCall keeps the integrity of your operations safe and secure. You keep on running and keep on driving your business.

You get it all from PLDT OnCall for start-up or current contact centers. Whatever your needs may be (see also: get rapid infrastructure deployment or assisted cost so you first earn a profit quicker because of PLDT OnCall's value-added services), there's never far from (remote 24/7 support help) to the expert assistance that improves your current contact center business infrastructure or helps develop better plans for the center you want to put up.

To find out more about PLDT OnCall, log on to www.pldtoncall.com.ph or email himself@pldt.com.ph or give us a call at 971-7171.

### Now They're Talking

THE PEOPLE

# Rage with a heart; reality bites Army brats

From page A1

and that was when the hate was lifted. So hate nothing in human history can jolt the conscience more than spilled human blood. We [say] if blood is spilled in a civil-blooded mistake. We rage even more if innocent blood is spilled. Years ang, 22, we knew that life wouldn't be the same again. We now regret, but still had to find the "course" or least in French, to go with it.

And so the saga began. I wasn't an idealogue but appreciated some of the positions taken by the Left. Marxism-Leninism-Mao? Hindi ko alam. Hindi ako nasa sa mga generation. Perhaps it was the hurt that the unarmed revolution has spilled human blood like what the Ilocanos and Marcos did.

### Snap election

In 2003, Alamar called for his snap election. I was in Korea on volunteer undergrad. I was down a freshman at UP. At 19 we were, and still are, free to choose our ideologies and personal beliefs.

1984 and 1985 turned out to be an eye-opener. The opposition runs 3-3 of seats to parliament. That they were this much despite widespread electoral fraud amazed to the rage that the people felt. The communists, in their inflexible ideology, failed to realize that the people wanted the largely peaceful and nonviolent way to express the rage. We were then laid out your deed of living able to say, "But we know that it was just a matter of time.

The 1986 campaign was marked by violences, intimidation, rage and protest. I remember that someone was collecting signatures for Cory against's candidacy at Sabanchali. I did not sign. In principle, I supported the left's call for boycott.

### Folly of boycott

But soon enough I realized the folly of boycott and neither to support this was our best position not but to defend the ballot. I told my friend, now that president-nominee, not to cast my first ballot. I have no desire but to defend it. It was not valuable.

Then on Feb. 7, 1986, I lost my political virginity.

At the poll watch, I watched suspicious but still dubious. But the voters' high regard for the manual count path impressed me that I eventually dispensed with suspicions.

The votes were counted and I had no sleep for days. I went to a Mass celebrated by Jaime Cardinal Sin at Redemptorist Church. This was at the height of the poll count.

### Crunch time

What I clearly remember is what with a priest/brother after the Mass. I wakened to see that I feared what could happen. Jim told me, "never to fear or give in. If you give in, we lose everything."

It was beginning to sound like a Greek Tragedy. We have civil wars in give and take and the young were about to die. When it had rained to ugly head and was consummated, the Catholic bishops, drew the moral line. On which side should I be? It was a moral issue.

I came from MSC training the day Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Gen. Fidel Ramos defected. My entire total out of the town after I had dismissed my motor mate-style platoon.

One of the cadets phoned me that they were in the barracks in front of Crame. A friend called me that the situation was serious. I replied that we were now in a crisis, history in-the-making. The stress-range funny.

The week before, when Marcos' parliament declared him as the winner, my whole gang donned "victorious." For the first time, I saw fear in my father's eyes. He was not afraid that Marcos' days were over but that many of the members of our generation would die.

Young as we were, we had only reasons to continue of "revolution." We doubt the leftist propaganda in UP contributed to our considerations. Being vice-proud soldiers, my dad did not say word on what we said. I told him that some of the cadets were in Crame and that I, as their commanding officer, have to be there.

Once more my father did not say a word but gave the salute. I put on a blue jacket with a dial over underneath.

### Army brats

So I had to look for the members of my platoon. I did find them inside Crame with orders to shoot back. Their cadets were all army brats, sons of those officers who were defected to the Enrile-Ramos camp. And the long night began. The most fateful time was when some helicopters gunships landed. Probably this was it. But it was Gen. Antonio Sanchez man, who defected to live rebel-side.

With the situation relaxed, one of the army brats said that we could take a shower in his chief's quarters in Crame. "Sir, it would be the last time." A panel had given us minimum the night before. In the morning, I found my feet looking for me, who entered the UP cadet squad to "go home."

### Dad's courage

He brought me to General Ramos' office, where we stayed for the day. I then know how much my father loved me, to it did take courage to put himself in the line of fire. He was a man of the old combat veteran but going after me still inspired sort of courage.

My recollection is one long fire I was dead tired, very hungry and wasn't able to take that "last shower." There was no other group of other army brats, armed with a small weapon. The situation was still dangerous. I had been trained as a marksman in ROTC and had learned to discussion-my emotion from my weapon.

This is solid I still have another armed war until in many of life's many cases, as we watching the movie "Dyan" 20 years later, I found a older than I with one of the embellishes. Perhaps this is why my dad was thankful. He was in charge of ROTC training in Metro Manila colleges and knew cadet psychology very well.

I distinctly remember General Ramos' voice on the radio saying, "Good morning Sir from a visitor of the Palma Virgin. I had never seen politicians do this. I then moved to a side room and while watching the TV, I saw Marcos cut from the air. The end was at least for Marcos and he for pushing the plug off Cable 7. It is was a strange news to the planet.

My Edsa experience was almost totally confined inside an army camp. Unlike my friends and classmates from 10 who rushed a TV issues under fire, or who stopped the tanks or kept under tear gas, I just had to obey the orders to guard against the rebels of Enrile.

We were courageous as young people were expected to be. And we raged. It is by God's providence that this rage was not organized in the violent way but in a most laudable constructive one.

# 'Butz, you better leave now'

by Reed Alex M. Santos

BUTZ, YOU BETTER leave the place now," Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile told Agapito Aguinaldo, leader of the August Twenty-One Movement, or Atom. "It is no longer safe for you to be around."

Aguinaldo had requested an impromptu meeting with Enrile at the Ministry of National Defense in Camp Aguinaldo. I was then an Atom officer. I had gone to Camp Aguinaldo to check out the radio report about the bombarrows when I chanced upon Aguinaldo and Colonel Jim.

Enrile had requested for the meeting after Aguinaldo phoned him and offered help. But Enrile abruptly stopped the meeting after an officer showed the latter series of an imminent attack. Enrile turned to go to a group of uniformed men and were looking military officers.

### Bravado

But Aguinaldo, in his usual bravado, declared, "Mr Minister, we are not leaving you behind. The people together with the Atom members are in Cubao ready prepared to come to join you here in Camp Aguinaldo."

Recently, Enrile admitted in an interview to columnist, "Pware Joven the place now. I've heard what he just reported to me. The situation is dangerous." The officer had reported in a hurry from Bonifacio Global Area "coming to attack and invade the place, sir."

I could feel my hair rise all up and I started to feel a big lump in my throat that almost choked me! "Oh Lord! What to do?" I said to myself. I was in error.

Enrile gave quick instructions to the officers, then proceeded to a meeting between rebel and foreign reporters.

I urged Aguinaldo to leave the place pronto.

I will never forget Butz, quite spontaneously, our dialogue went. "Butz, are we on Atom conspirators really nothing in Cubao? With that declaration Aguinaldo, he answered almost in a whisper as his head was down, his palatial long nose (you can't what we you, it's all I've shown), but we can still leave anytime."

We went back to Cubao and at 1:00 pm we heard Aguinaldo started making phone calls, including one to Rodolfo Mañara, where he urged people to gather at Edsa and protect the rebels.

"SHOWTIME" for Butz Aguinaldo.

# Emboldened by Johnny Walker

by Rell L. Gerreon

IN THE EARLY EVENING OF Feb. 22, 1986, I was at a small birthday party with members of the August Twenty-One Movement (Atom) when news of the rebellion by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Gen. Fidel Ramos broke out.

Because there was no phone around to confirm the report, we rushed to the Atom headquarters at Pinag-Isa to call sources going meeting of the Atom executive committee, including Agapito (Butz) Aquino.

I helped Butz set up Atom after the 1983 assassination of Benigno Aquino. He is other.

### Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, Diokno

Butz then called up Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma and Sen. Jose Diokno who said that Atom should weigh the situation carefully before making any decision.

Shortly after, probably emboldened by the spirit of Johnny Walker (or was it being?), Butz decided to go to the scene of the ongoing event.

At around 12 p.m., we heard that on the radio declaring Atom's support for the Enrile-Ramos group and asking for Juan Marcos people to convene at Enrile' base Road and in Cubao.

We began to march on Edsa towards Crame and Aguinaldo just after midnight. We were camping out in the streets. By the early three days, not knowing what was in store for us.

On Feb. 23, I headed an Atom group of five that was stationed on Ronnie Ramos Avenue on the side of Camp Crame. Late that night, we got reports that soldiers loyal to Marcos would attack the camps on board tanks and armored vehicles. So we placed garbage cans, crates, and other stuff to barricade ourselves from the enemy.

### Solitary vigil

Residents on streets perpendicular to Ramos had already made their own barricades. What was unique was the one on 4th Avenue.

There was nothing on the entrance to the road, save for a solitary man vacillating between the blockade post and a traffic sign at the opposite end.

By early morning, no tanks, no armored vehicles came. I told my group that enemy tanks must have been pushed (or retreated or surrendered) by now that was obviously meant to stop their forces from trying to invade the camps.

The entire Atom group was right at the intersection of Edsa and Ramos' Avenue when the news broke out on the morning of Feb. 25 that the Marcoses had fled the country. All of us rolled our lungs out and unabashedly acted in extreme jubilation. The country was finally free.

# The demonstration that never was

by Albert del Rosario

(The writer is now Philippine ambassador to the United States.)

IN THE DAYS LEADING UP to the snap elections in February 1986, it became increasingly clear that Filipinos were determined to reclaim their democracy through the ballot.

The whole world was watching the Philippines then. The American Island others in sending an election monitoring mission. Sen. Richard Lugar led the American mission, which included such American political figures as Sen. John Kerry, Sen. Thad Cochran, Congressman Jerry Lewis and Congressman John Murtha.

### US mission

Despite the findings of the American mission, President Ronald Reagan stated publicly his belief that there had been cheating on both sides during the snap elections. This created a wave of indignation among Filipinos.

In reaction, Jimmy Ongpin, democracy activist and business leader, issued a call for Filipinos like myself, Tony Fuyuno, Tony Tamayan, and Ben Santos, who had graduated from US schools, to organize a rally.

We went to march to the US Embassy to submit a manifesto protesting Reagan's statement to Ambassador Steve Bosworth. With chief and his as required series, I was designated to personally present our manifesto to the American ambassador in his office.

On Friday, Feb. 21, 1986, Jimmy asked me to advise the Americans of the plan as Steve Bosworth and I were close friends. When I told him we would be coming, Steve, -not the gentleman, asked me what safe clothes are would like to have served since we would be marching in the heat of the sun.

### Protecting military

The demonstration was organized to include 150 US graduates and had been scheduled for Monday, Feb. 24. However, we were overtaken by events. What would however be memorialized as the First Edsa Filipino People Power Revolution took to the open on Saturday, Feb. 22, 1986.

Jimmy Ongpin, Bert Romulo, Tony Fuyuno, Tony Tamayan, Ben Santos and I were among the first small groups of civilians that rushed into Camp Aguinaldo that unforgettable Saturday evening.

Along with our families who immediately followed and kept vigil outside of the camps the night the succeeding days, we were there to protect them in the military who had broken with Marcos. We did not know it then, but we would become part of one of the great episodes in Philippine history. Even though the reality we ourselves had planned never took place!

THE MILITARY

# 'I chose to be there'

From page A1

families to Colonel Tamayao, who was already retired at the time. He wanted Colonel Tamayao to look after the welfare of our families and to tell our folks if anything untoward happened to us.

### Surprised

Jacob Agdeppa Jr. I met representatives who were surprised but happy to see me. The air inside was electric because of infiltrations that infiltrator and took seats, with their full complement of Marines, were being arrested against us from all directions.

We were also told that an aerial bombardment was imminent, prompting General Ramos, who was at Camp Crame, to ask Minister Enrile to remove from Aguinaldo to Crame.

### Goose bumps

I was with Minister Enrile when we left Aguinaldo to go to Camp Crame in four six Cayetanos Avenue. I had goose bumps when in the midst of the two camps we were mobbed by people whose members. Blind Edsa and sufficient south in the eye on me.

I thought Dave Hall, lastly, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has gathered behind the Armed Forces of the People.

With Gen. Ramos we embracing as the protestant as we looked up Isaiah Chapel with tender hearing their big-hot guns pointed on us right from the golf courses inside Aguinaldo. General Ramos asked us to choose our battle posts.

I decided to join the ground forces of Col. Red Kapunan and, doing a foot soldier's job, proceeded to help guard the area of Camp Crame's exterior (the rebellion of Minister Enrile and General Ramos were hosted). We knew the tactical importance of those vehicles to ease the loaders of the rebel forces had to consider their base of resistance.

We who were doing was positioned-in front of Crame already had our fingers on the trigger of our rifles—cocked and ready to go—when we heard what we thought we would have been the highest-ranking heroes of about forty-seven.

The choppers encountered no enemies, nearly doing reconnaissance of Crame's defenses, and I told myself that the second time they got over us all hell would break loose.

As it turned out, the helicopters were being "tipped, rustled and delivered" by Col. Antonio Sanchez, who then joined over into our side.

### Foot soldier

The real history that as I look back at these three glorious days when the Filipino people stood side by side with THEIR beloved Pueyo, I know that I had made a decision that would live up to the high standards I have set for myself.

I was a ruthless foot soldier in 1986 during Edsa People Power I despite my rank, but it was a time of great urgency and finally which I could not turn my back to. I didn't have to be there, but I chose to be there.

My conviction which will never change is that whether as a filipino or as Chief of Staff of the AFP, which I was during Edsa Dos in 2001, a man's commitment to a common cause, no matter how feasible, is unconscionable.

I am proud to say to my children and my children's children that in 1986, whether the Filipino leaders will rally to effect change, I was there in Edsa fighting for what I believe was right.

# SPLITS by CA

## Alpha
## Your first split.

**The Carrier Alpha Split is your easy access to split air-conditioning. The Alpha Split is easy to own because it is certainly within your reach. It is packed with practical, efficient, energy-saving features that bear the assurance of Carrier reliability.**

### It's all about cooling your homes and businesses.

When choosing your split air-conditioning system, put your money where your trust is. Whether it is for the bigger rooms of your house or your place of business. Because what you choose today will define your cooling comfort tomorrow. And the guaranteed return on your investment.

### It's all about knowing Carrier expertise is within reach.

For over 100 years now, Carrier has defined what air conditioning is all about. This expertise has allowed Carrier to introduce unique and pioneering breakthroughs only a leader can. Value added features such as easy acquisition, free installation, after sales service, warranties and genuine parts supply. All these to assure you of high quality, reliable units. Inquire from your dealer about these features.

### It's all about energy efficiency

Power consumption is everyone's concern. Whether at home or in your place of business. Which is why the Alpha Split has a unique feature called Economic Running. This allows the Alpha Split to automatically adjust the temperature to an optimum level. Also, a 24-hour ON and OFF timer will allow the unit to go on and off at predetermined intervals. Add to this a high Energy Efficient Ratio (EER) and you are assured of maximum savings in electricity.

### It's all about advanced technology working for you.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This same adage applies to the Carrier Split. It is equipped with a Self-Diagnostic Device which detects potential system malfunctions and protects your unit from any damage.

# RRIER It's about time.

## It's all about accessorizing your home.

Flat is beautiful. Flat is the ultimate design in air conditioning systems. A Flat Panel means there are no ridges in the grill that can gather dust or grime. A Flat Panel blends in with the elegant interior design and ambience of your home or place of business.

## It's all about intelligent cooling.

The Carrier Xpression is not just form but substance too. Here is where engineering is at its best. It has a 7-mm Super-Conductive Lanced Sine Wave Fin Surface that speeds up the rate that heat is taken out of any room. Moisture that slows down the ability to absorb additional heat slides right off the coils of the Xpression's Hydrophilic Evaporator. The Turbo Cool and Powerful Mode features enable the unit to go full blast, cooling a room in less than 80 seconds.

# xpression
## Your ultimate split.

Face it, there's nothing like knowing you own the best. Whether it is aesthetics or the latest in technology. Breathing clean air or really silent cooling. What may be regarded as the best air conditioning system is the best reward you can give yourself.

## It's all about breathing clean.

Not just a lot of cool air, but a lot of clean, cool air. The Carrier Xpression has 5 exclusive features designed to do just that. A Washable Anti-Mold Filter screens out harmful mold, dust and pollen. A Photo-Catalytic Filter removes harmful gases and chemicals in the air. A Charcoal Filter neutralizes cooking odor and cigarette smoke. An Electrostatic Dust Collector catches airborne allergens like dust mites, pollen and dog dander. And an Anti-Bacterial Blower Fan and Drain Pan inhibit the growth of bacteria and fungi.

## It's all about rewarding yourself.

The Carrier Xpression is in itself the ultimate assurance of quality in air conditioners. And no one deserves this more than yourself. So go ahead. Indulge yourself. The Carrier Xpression is truly your own just reward.

Carrier®

Turn to the Experts.℠

# EDSA I 20

## THE MILITARY

# Abadia: Superiors' orders fell on deaf ears

By Ric Zamora

ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS HAD announced he would not attack the rebels, loyal generals, allegedly prodded by the First Lady, continued to issue orders to decimate the rebels, a former Armed Forces chief said.

But the orders fell on deaf ears as the ground commanders had already lost their will to fight, said Gen. Lisandro Abadia, who was then Army chief of operations.

According to him, even Imelda Marcos failed to influence the Army to proceed with the counter-attack.

"I told her it was not possible. There were just too many people, [there would be] too many casualties," Abadia said.

Abadia said he was in Cebu when the revolution began. He quickly flew back to Manila the next day.

### Counter-attack

At Fort Bonifacio, Abadia recalled a flurry of planning for a counter-attack, including sending Marines.

Headed by Brig. Gen. Artemio Tadiar, the troops left Fort Bonifacio at 2 p.m. By his reckoning, Abadia said the troops would reach Camp Aguinaldo at 4 p.m.

But at 4 p.m., the troops were still at Ortigas and Edsa.

### Sea of humanity

"I told General Ramas that something was wrong. The columns were not moving," he said.

On a helicopter flight, he saw Edsa was crammed with people, Abadia recalled at a lot near the Ortigas-Edsa corner, where the troops were stuck.

"When we landed, the people ventured me and us," he said. There, Abadia met with Tadiar.

"I told him, 'Sir, you stopped.' And he said, 'yes, Boy [Abadia's nickname], there are just too many people.'"

### Tadiar not willing

"I saw that General Tadiar was not willing anymore," Abadia said.

But his frustrations knew Tadiar's counterpart managed to inch slowly to Camp Aguinaldo via the White Plains road, said retired brig. Gen. Braulio Balbas.

When no orders came for them to move to Crame, Balbas said he ordered the troops back to Fort Bonifacio.

A new directive to return to Camp Aguinaldo came as dawn on Monday, Feb. 24, Balbas continued.

### Tsorges

To crush the Edsa crowd, the Marines used Light Armored Vehicles. At Guadalupe, they were blocked by a huge crowd that included nuns, priests and students. Going through the crowd, the Marines briefly dispersed the crowd.

By 7:30 a.m., Balbas said "the machine guns and the mortars were already in place."

Balbas said he received the order at 9 a.m. It came from Gen. Josephus Ramas, the Army chief.

He said, Balbas, I want you to file your comments and report for compliance. I did not say 'yes,' but I told him I was already planning my comments...my mortars and the troops," Balbas said.

Balbas said Ramas called again 15 minutes later. But he kept on stalling.

Balbas said he tried to talk to Tadiar, but he had gone back to Malacañang.

"I told him I could not fire at Crame because of the crowd. I was rationalized to him that we cannot fire [because] casualties could be saved. I told him that," Balbas said.

But the generals at the Army HQ refused to give up, according to Abadia.

### Disobey orders

"We were planning the massive bombardment of Crame...and we were whining at each other," he said. "We understood that we were not going to obey."

In the middle of their planning, Imelda Marcos called.

"She was furious how [soon] we could launch the counter-attack," Abadia said. He replied that it was no longer possible.

# Scout Ranger begs, cajoles to get his commander out of harm's way

By Col. Romeo Y. Lim (retired)

ON SUNDAY, FEB. 23, 1986, AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE Scout Rangers, I was summoned to report to the Philippine Army headquarters. I was very surprised when I entered the conference. I was the only colonel in the meeting of generals.

The consensus was for me to bring one company of Scout Rangers to Edsa and open fire to disperse the crowd. My conscience rebelled against these instructions and I decided to stall.

I said I would send my intelligence officer to assist the ground troops. Then I went back to my office and began to look for Brig. Gen. Felix Brawner Jr., my commander.

I called the family of General Brawner. I also called Lt. Col. Benito Mendiola, commander of the Scout Ranger Training Center.

My junior officers were already very restless and itching to go to Edsa to join the anti-Marcos forces. I told them that I needed time to contact General Brawner. I wanted him out of harm's way. I also did not want him to pressure the troops to follow unreasonable orders.

My heart sank when I saw General Brawner on television at the Palace, standing behind the President.

I immediately called up Malacañang and asked to talk to General Ver. I told him that the Scout Rangers were hesitant to follow orders unless they came from General Brawner.

I begged, pleaded and cajoled General Ver to allow General Brawner to proceed on foot from Camp to join the troops, promising that my bluff would work.

### Ver calls bluff

We called my bluff. General Brawner himself rang me to say he was proceeding to the Scout Rangers headquarters.

I remember Mrs. Brawner and close relatives and General Mendiolas and asked them to prevent his headquarters.

When the general arrived, I suggested that it would be better if he motivated the troops to "freeze," that is, not to move in favor of any side.

In an indignant tone, he said this would be an act of cowardice. I led him to his room, where he saw his wife, relatives and Colonel Mendiolas. Except for the colonel, every one started crying. All of them asked him to defect.

Meanwhile, I told the officers that if General Brawner asked who was still willing to fight for President Marcos no one should raise their hand. Sure enough, the general called for a command conference and asked the question. No one raised a hand.

Visibly surprised at the outcome, the general announced he would not go back to Malacañang.

AWKWARD WALK THAT close to Marcos. He sets up Marcos for a TV appearance in the David Brubaker photo in November, 1985.

## THE PALACE

# Where's makeup artist?

From page A1

A makeup of the popular late '60s, early '70s did'P caress Imee, Rivera said he had been called to the Palace at around 6 p.m. on that July Sunday—Feb. 23, 1986—and had taken with him dispatches from Washington to brief the President.

"Why am I going on the air again?" Marcos asked Rivera moments after he was ushered into the President's private room.

### Bongbong opposes

Rivera had just started explaining when Bongbong, wearing Jungle fatigues, burned in, "Don't go on the air!"

A veteran broadcast journalist and hosting aficionado who had managed such ring greats as World featherweight champion Leonio Espinosa, Rivera recounted his briefing. It was essentially that US President Ronald Reagan had "categorically" withdrawn support if Marcos ordered an assault on the rebel-held camps Aguinaldo and Crame in Quezon City.

"Bongbong was vociferously objecting to the TV appearance of the President while I was trying to explain to him the need for him, based on the same reasons that Reagan's experts that I had heard," Rivera recounted.

As Bongbong continued his tirade, Marcos turned to his valet and said to the Rivera sister: "Can you get the makeup artist? There is something shiny in my forehead."

It took that to stop the two siblings from quarreling. By time getting on the air" and Rivera.

Rivera went to get the technicians and outside the room came face to face with Bongbong, this time carrying a Galil—the Israeli assault weapon.

### Don't interfere

"He came to me, stopped me short and said, 'Malakas ka sa amerikano! Hindi ka na sa iyo ay huwag kang makialam' [You trust-based agents. I already told you not to meddle]."

"I tried to explain to him. I was pleading. I tried po. Hindi ko ako makikialam. Mapag-usapan po iyong mga' [No, no I am not meddling, sir. We are just following orders.]."

"No, no...no, no," said Bongbong, then a stop-hatted, 28-year-old Army lieutenant.

"All sorts of intentions came out of him," said Rivera. "What I was concerned most was not the circumstance of his attack, but more on the prospects of being killed. For what?"

After what seemed like eternity, Bongbong mercifully turned around and left him.

"I think that singular tenacious trifle on just who was the real author of what the world hailed as a bloodless revolution," said Rivera. "Paradoxically, Bongbong helped in the peaceful resolution of the crisis by not pulling the trigger on that fateful night with me."

The 67-year-old Rivera said he decided to come out with his story for the first time to let everyone know that the People Power revolution wasn't all about the masses and shakers. It was also about his players whose roles were no less significant.

### It was beautiful

"It was beautiful. Nothing happened after the President went on the air; everything his soldiers not to move at all, to keep the status quo for the sake of the country," said Rivera.

It wasn't like that at all on the first day of the breakaway on Saturday, Feb. 22, 1986, a day filled with tension and uncertainty.

Rivera said the pall of gloom seemed to have descended upon the Palace a week earlier, when Marcos made a surprise announcement that he had accepted the resignation of Gen. Fabian Ver as Armed Forces chief—a move that stunned his.

Marcos had designated Ramos as head of the military, but to Ramos' chagrin, Marcos agreed to amend, on Ver's request, the turnover of command to allow Ver to express his gratitude to the troops in the field.

Curious, Rivera had called Ver to ask why he had resigned. "Ver told him, no,he had not, but that he had turned in a position resignation, as a matter of courtesy, following the coup doctrine.

And Rivera had remembered if there would ever have any revolution at all had Ramos immediately taken command of the Armed Forces. He recalled that Ramos himself had called Malacañang several times asking where this would happen.

But the day the revolution broke out, there was Ver at the Palace with his son-in-law, the chief of the Presidential Guards who was unusually dad in full battle uniform, imminently posing threat.

### Special envoy

The two arrived at the Study Room shortly after Marcos had received US President Ronald Reagan's special envoy, Philip Habib, who had called to report on the observations on the conduct of the snap elections. The morning, which began at 10 a.m., lasted three hours.

Immediately after Habib left, Rivera went to do his usual task—to ask the President what he would like the Malacañang press corps to know about the morning.

But but Sen. Rivera to the President. The was regarded as a private room and later but called Irene requires them.

When the three emerged 70 minutes later, Marcos told Rivera to prepare a press release simply reporting that his meeting with Habib centered on how he had won the snap election "fair and square."

Rivera went to the press office, unaware that Irwin had requested to the President how he had concocted a plot by Enrile to mount a coup d'etat on Gen. Ver and that a truckload against the suspected putschists had begun.

### Hush-hush

"I thought something was amiss. There was a hush-hush atmosphere," Rivera recalled.

At 12 p.m., he went to the Manila Hotel, where the foreign press types hang out, to try and find out what was going on. He ran into Time photographer Robin Moyer, who told him, "How come your guys are deserting ship now? We're going to Enrile's office. Somethings going to be announced."

Close on Moyer's heels came Time correspondent Sandra Burton, who told Rivera, "I can't talk now. I'm rushing. I'll see you later."

Rivera strode to the coffee bar and saw JV Cruz, the Philippine ambassador to the Court of Saint James. Rivera told him everybody seemed to be heading for Camp Aguinaldo.

"Is that true?" Cruz said.

"If I were you, I'd go back to your post," Rivera said.

Cruz took one big gulp of his scotch, called his driver and proceeded to the airport. "The next thing I knew, he was back in London," said Rivera.

It was then about 4 p.m. I tried reaching the President, trying to figure out how I could make a sense of it all. I tried to call in the next several hours but couldn't get through. I thought that was unusual. There had never been an instance where my calls to the President had been rejected," said Rivera.

After Enrile announced the breakaway at around 6 p.m. "All hell broke loose," said Rivera.

### Dialysis

Shortly after 8 p.m. Col. Ismael Arabia, the President's senior military aide, came on the phone and told Rivera that the President was on the line but that he had to be very brief. Rivera assumed up what he had learned so far.

Rivera later learned from Arabia the reason why Marcos was unavailable during the conference call.

"He was being given his usual dialysis, which I understood rendered him incommunicado for at least four hours," Rivera said, speaking for the first time Marcos' condition in that time.

Marcos' kidney problems, the subject of so much speculation, had been a closely guarded secret since 1979.

Even in his book of the Marcoses' escape in Hawaii—"Malacañang to Make"—Arabia was vague on the subject of Marcos undergoing dialysis, saying only that during those critical moments on the first day of the revolution, he could not see Marcos because he was resting under the care of doctors and nurses.

An hour after Rivera had talked on the phone to Marcos, the President went on national television to announce the capture of the first marchers in all, four were shown in public confessing their participation in the aborted coup d'etat.

Apart from the confrontation with Bongbong, the next two days at the Palace were uneventful, from Rivera's perspective, save an unscheduled number of massive crowds at Edsa and defections to the rebel side.

At around 2 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24, a call came to the side house where Rivera and several other Palace media aides stayed. A member of the kitchen staff said the First Family had made a decision to leave. Mr. Marcos would go through with it but interrupted that day.

The decision to depart came after a series of exchanges between the White House and Malacañang with the message that Marcos should step aside...a clear position received by school for Sen. Ted Kaufman was only turning phone calls.

That morning, Rivera came to the Palace...and went in see Marcos for his assigned at the Palace Ceremonial Hall.

"Is everything set?" The telegrapher?" Marcos asked Rivera.

Rivera said that light security outside the Palace had prevented the technician from reporting for work.

### Disappointed

"He looked disappointed. I wanted to make light of it," said Rivera, a man with a sense of humor, and a sunny demeanor in normal times, he could draw a smile from the President. "He had a very solemn face that morning," Rivera said.

Midway through the address, the national television coverage was cut off by a sniper's bullet fired to the Channel 9 transmitter.

"He didn't know about it. The next thing to do was to rush the tape to Channel 9," Rivera said. But fighting had erupted there too.

Marcos went in his study. "There was no more reason to go on," he told Rivera. "It very soon smile created his troubled face. He looks at me and says, 'I understand there is a large armed outside the balcony. See to it that everything is set up'".

Rivera went down to see how the advance party involved by the fleeing that had gathered near the Palace ground.

That was the last time Rivera saw the President at the Palace. The two would meet again months later—the time to Hawaii, where Marcos had gone into exile.

Project Editor
Fernando del Mundo
Editors
Lolly Antonio-Magsanoc
Nilo Pascual
Luis Mariñas-Katz
Natalia Zaragoza
Helen Gutierrez
Miguel Suarez
Designer
Lynell V. Ruffin
Sharleen Rubio
Evie Sarmiento

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvec S. Melendres

KYOCERA
PHILCOPY

# Viloria keeps WBC light fly title

## Fil-Am champ survives early Aguirre flurry, wins by unanimous verdict

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—Filipino-American Brian Viloria retained his World Boxing Council light flyweight title Saturday with a 12-round unanimous decision over Mexico's Jose Antonio Aguirre at the Aladdin Hotel and Casino here.

The 25-year-old Viloria, nicknamed Hawaiian Punch, made his first defense of the title he won with a first-round knockout of Eric Ulit in September.

Viloria spent much of the night fighting against the ropes as he was content to let Aguirre move forward. But the Mexican's offense vanished in the second half of the fight, allowing the champion to pull away.

The Filipino improved to 19-0 with 12 wins while the former 112-pound titlist Aguirre, who had been fighting for the first time at 108 lbs.

He seemed to lose Viloria in the second round, landing a hard overhand right that knocked the champion into a

CHAMPION Brian Viloria (left) connects with a left to the face of Mexican challenger Jose Antonio Aguirre in the eighth round.

AP

corner. Aguirre also held the unanimous weight record from 2000 to 2001 at 105.5 lbs before his three weight fights, including the one he lost to Ulit, at 108 lbs.

He seemed to lose Viloria in the second round, landing a hard overhand right that knocked the champion into a second corner and then following with a right to the body.

Viloria, who entered the ring to the tune of the hit Jessica Simpson television series "Remote Play 02," started hot by tagging Aguirre with a big left hook followed by a flurry of punches in the first round.

Aguirre again had Viloria in trouble briefly in the third round, nearly knocking him down with a big right, but the champion, who trains his team in Norwalk, Iowa, has not given up in Mexican stamina in his fights so far.

The punishment Viloria sustained in the second and third rounds made him say later Monday he could no longer count on his Filipino viewers with Quiddo Herrera.

"Sometimes me or Viloria (Viloria is getting hurt)," said Pacquiao.

Viloria picked up the pace in the fourth round, which he clearly won, after being urged by his American trainer Freddie Roach to go to the body. Throwing and landing more punches, he evened things up with Aguirre.

VIRMA A-O

Yoke & Co. wins PAL crown A30

GREAT DEALS OF QUALITY
AUTOWIDE
TRUCKS, PASSENGER VANS & SUVs
BIG PRICE CUT
February 17 to March 3, 2006
Sale Starts 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bulls finish off Giants for PBA crown A30

# Bulls finish off Giants, put away Fiesta title

PBA commissioner Noli Eala (second from left) flanks (from left) sangguniang coach Yeng Guiao as the Bulls celebrate their victory

By Jun Navarro

COACH RENO GRIEGO'S TOWER PUBLISHED Bulls (Number wasted spring some surprises in yesterday's game. There weren't any.

And Bull put down the defensive champs in the stretch and got several clutch plays from an array of heroes to finally send the Giants down to their knees, 83-73, and capture the San Mig Coffee–PBA Fiesta Conference crown before a roaring crowd of 10,735 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Jayson Petry was in a zone in the third quarter but added contributions coming from Mick Pennisi, Cyrus Baguio, Topex Robinson and 7-foot Moe Vidanes Player Lordy Tugade also helped the Bulls clinch their third franchise title since joining the league in 2000.

"There are no ready-made superstars in this team," said first Bull coach Yeng Guiao after sharing his fifth coaching crown overall, putting him in a tie with former Toyota coach Chito Salazar in all-time.

"We just developed and had players using our own system," added Guiao, whose Bulls finished off the Giants in six games, 4-2.

The Bulls took the first two games, the Giants bounced back in Games 3 and 4, before Red Bull wrote their through a pair of scintillating performances in Game 5 and 6.

After winning the 2000 Governors Cup, the Bulls experienced a slide after losing Dennis Hopson and Pennisi due to citizenship problems and Jimwell Torres's suspension on drug charges.

"We were a championship team before the slide, but the management was committed to rebuilding the team," said Guiao, whose first stint was cut short by Purefoods.

Pennisi had big shots in the end, including two three-pointers and a long two, while Baguio, Eclito Cruz and Jenffer Reinoso each made good stops that rendered the Giants scoreless in the 8-minute minute-and-10-seconds.

If there were any changes on the Giants' scoring, it was the unneeded time on the floor given to veterans Jun Limpot, who played for 27 minutes and Hardnett Dublo 18 points.

**The scores**

**RED BULL 83**—Petry 21, Baguio 13, Pennisi 12, Tugade 11, Vidanes 8, Reinoso 6, Jao 5, Ilagan 2, Lumagui 1, Mallari 0, Bugrick 0 min 0.

**PURE FOODS 73**—Castillo 21, Cruz 8, Hugnatan 11, Yap-Cope 0, Yap, Arnaiz 3, Castillo 1, Ildefonso 0, Limpot 27, Dublo 18, Ramos 0, Ibanez 0, Ibanez 0, Ibanez

MALAYSIAN OPEN

# Korean Wi bags title; Miñoza fades away

KUALA LUMPUR—KOREAN CHARLIE WI SAscored the proudest moment of his career after trailing a one-stroke victory in the rain-affected Malaysian Open on Sunday.

The Philippines' Frankie Miñoza, on the other hand, saw his campaign finish with a 74 that dropped him way back on the final leaderboard.

Wi, 24, birdied the last hole to complete a nine-under-par 63 at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club and finish at 19 under par, one ahead of Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee in a tournament reduced to three rounds.

Miñoza had a triple bogey on the par 3 third hole and never recovered after that, finishing in one for 63rd (67th place with a 21).

"I'm really disappointed on coming here to Malaysia, I wasn't expecting to win, as I saw home last week and I had no idea I would make so many cuts like I did today," Wi told reporters.

"I just was looking out for the rules as I got a lot of good breaks and I have Thongchai to thank on part on the last hole which really helped me win this championship," he added.

"For this win is definitely the biggest win of my career and the proudest moment in my career."

Jaidee, looking to become only the sixth player to win a tournament in three successive years, carded a closing 66.

He had the opportunity to force a playoff but failed with a 20-foot birdie putt at the last hole to miss his chance. Reuters

# Little man soars high

New York's 5-foot-9 guard rules slam dunk contest

HOUSTON, TEXAS—NATE Robinson won the Slam Dunk Contest Saturday and Dirk Nowitzki triumphed in the Shootout, part of the National Basketball Association festivities leading up to Sunday's All Star Game.

A rookie guard on the New York Knicks, Robinson needed a dozen throws in a rainbowder to overcome Philadelphia 76ers sophomore Andre Iguodala, who put home one of the most difficult and imaginative dunks in the 23-year history of the event.

Robinson, diminutive by NBA standards at 5-foot-9 inches, was inspired by the victory 20 years ago of 5-foot-7 Spud Webb, who admired Robinson prior to the contest and helped him execute a dunk in the second round.

Standing in the lane, Webb tossed a pass to a charging Robinson, who soared over Webb and put down a one-handed hammer for a perfect score of 50.

Both Robinson and Iguodala rested '04 Olympian Dwight Howard, a seven-foot Orlando center. Robinson required a dozen throws that included three missed dunks before finally putting home a slam that began at halfcourt with an underhand toss off the backboard and ended with him putting the ball through his legs before the dunk.

Needing a 47 to tie, Iguodala tried a reverse-the-legs reverse along the baseline, missing one before converting. He came up one point short, prompting NBA Commissioner David Stern to plead for about "fifth reverse dunk!"

Howard, assisted ignodala on his second clank of the first round, one of the most memorable in the history of the event.

Howard stood behind the backboard with the ball while Iguodala began at the free throw arrow out of bounds. Iguodala took an angular approach toward the backboard as Howard threw the ball softly off the back of the backboard.

Almost impossibly, Iguodala caught the carom in mid-air, remained aloft as he soared below the rim and threw in a reverse dunk that seemed to defy gravity.

In the Shootout, Nowitzki, perhaps the best shooting big man in the history of the game, joined Larry Bird, Glen Rice and Reggie Miller as the only forwards to vote in the 25-year history of the event.

A workmanlike power forward for Dallas and a Most Valuable Player candidate this season, Nowitzki was already hot ner spectacular in draining his first deep shot. His final-round score of 35 matched the fewest since 2000.

After Washington Wizards guard Gilbert Arenas opened the final round with a score of 10 points, Nowitzki began his making four on his first rack of balls from the right corner—a spot from which he rarely shoots during games—and remained on a roll throughout the round, raising three on his final rack. AFP

NOWITZKI: Three-point champ

# Sisters act helps lift Highlands

HEYDEE LOVIDO, ANE ANGELA DE VILLA powered defending champion Tagaytay Highlands to a 2-1 victory over Manila Southwoods yesterday in the Ladies' Philippine Golf League action played over the Canlubang Golf Course.

Lovido teamed up with Sarah Ingerbol to win the high-low point while Angela played with Shiela Flores and won the aggregate duel.

Connie Campos and Ofe Domingo took the tournament for Southwoods.

Alabang and Manila Southwoods broke into the win column pulverizing 2-1 triumphs over their respective opponents.

Alabang downed Sta. Elena while Sharon brought Riviera back to earth with a win that sealed the latter's back-to-back wins with lowest points.

Aline Lorna Tolentino and Oliver Flores donned the honorsons for Alabang, the two-45-tie matches ended in 1 to with. Fatima Cristine Christine Sanchez figuring in a standoff with Alice Jane Nancy Co and Nelsie Chicher Whitie Chua also splitting the point with Lily Chan-Yancy Ortega.

Winning the match for Forest Hills were Vicky Rapsin (2), Wang and Nikki Rupid-Manila Ojeda.

Nikki Wack Wack succumbed to her streak after a hard-earned 2-1 victory over Rupid North-woods of Baliuag.

# Davis writes Winter Olympics history

TURIN, ITALY—DAVID DAVIS OF Olympic Games history on Saturday before the specter of doping again hit the Olympics.

Davis became the first black to win an individual gold medal at a Winter Olympics, combining with Joey Cheek in an American one-two finish Saturday in the 1,000-meter speed-skating final.

Soon after Davis completed his victory, Italian authorities raided the residences of Austrian biathlon and cross-country staff in the Alpine hosting by licensed substances and the IOC sanctioned random drug tests on "a number of Austrian cross-country and biathlon athletes."

Alfred Eder, a trainer for the Austrian biathlon team, said more than a dozen police searched and interviewed athletes for four hours.

"We are very angry," Eder said. "It is not very good mentally."

It was a day of firsts in the Alps, with Hedi Andie Amendt becoming the first man to win the same Alpine event in three Olympics, and Janica Kostelic becoming the first woman to win four Olympic Alpine gold medals. AP

MARTIN Straka [top] of Czech Republic fights with Jarkko Ruutu of Finland during the ice hockey men's preliminary round Czech Republic vs Finland at the 2006 Winter Olympics at the Palasport Olimpico in Turin. Ruutu lost control and ramrod into Czech [arrow] [top] knocking the NHL star to the ice bloodied.

# Nissan golf: Rory still up

LOS ANGELES—RORY SABBATINI HAS A five-foot birdie on the 18th hole Saturday to maintain a two-stroke lead over the second round leaders at the Nissan Open golf tournament.

Sabbatini shot 4-under 68 and was at 14-under 130. Fred Couples had a 68 and was two strokes ahead with Craig Barlow, who shot 69. Vijay Singh was at 136 after a 71. Tadd Fujikawa had 70 and Brandt Jobe had a 72. Details trailing the list. Tiger Woods withdrew with the flu, the first time in his pro career he has left in the middle of the tournament for health reasons. AP

## Interpreting the Interpreter

By Perry G. Dalla

SIX MONTHS INTO EARLY RETIREMENT, I am back in California state service as a "retained" consultant or retired "annuitant," take your pick—to work on a project for Arnold's army.

The gig through June is with Mr. Schwarzenegger's energy advisor. My job is to help make his energy policies crystal clear to the electorate, I mean the people. After a breaking-in curve, I mean the Republican has announced he'll run again for governor of the Golden State.

Modern science has been divide lover-of-late. The calendar says winter, but the weather's been spring-like, confusing the flowers in Monocultural circles.

Anyway, Arnoldspeak hungry the curves from home come up to me in pairs, at the free soup, in restaurants, etc. The hottest lemon-fresh plum is, you'll never guess 6—Alberto Barquito and his exquisite young points of scholarship.

The one member of Manny's plane who seems to savor all the curiosity is someone named Joe Ramos.

Mr. Ramos does not cook Manny's books, clean his plane, drive his car or make his bed when the Pre-

sent returns to Los Angeles.

According to news reports and column items, he is supposed to be the Filipino champion's lawyerer. As Barquino's points has expanded of late, so has Joe's close to Manny's orange.

Despite the other 960-enough-year-Irish mistakes in their raucous fight, Barquino remanded Joe with a lengthy sum of $50,000.

Such a windfall makes Joe one of, if not the highest paid interpreters on the planet.

The American Interpreters Association estimates there are 12,000 to 15,000 interpreters and translators in the United States. Many of them earn $30,000 to $50,000 annually—making Joe's one-time paycheck something to shoot for in their lifetime.

But the sporting world knows that Manny has been freelancing, been doing his own interpreting. He has taken excessive liberties with the King's tongue-of-Law.

Meantime, where has Joe been, sleeping on post, in dying other clients?

I can almost hear an editor friend should to get the chance to condemn Mr. Ramos.

The friend's query would be short and sweet: "Joe...since he is taking any upfront cut?" (Joe, what sort of talisman have you got?)

Well, we would rather leave the Ramos Arlenego to other interested parties, gossip columnists included.

Sports Note: Is it really necessary to impose the PAC presidential super bowls brought this year on a bandwidth-fighter like Pampanga? Is he answer that such time be come out to boo sporting that lady, the PAC declares a nationwide turn as sanction fest? A friend in the know says this is one of the greatest problem since the sale of the Brooklyn Bridge—now there may be socialists in network row.

POC did not blink in cage row—Cojuangco

SAYING THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC Committee is not staging a different tune, POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco said in an interview the other day that "nothing has changed" in the country's bid to regain membership in the Fiba (International Basketball Federation).

"We are following the Memorandum of Understanding between the Fiba and POC which requires that the five basketball stakeholders (PBA, PBL, LNAP, MCAA and Amateur Sen. Joey Lina, president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines), form a new and unified association so as to before the March 31 deadline. Right now, we're on track. There's no problem."

Dispelling rumors that the POC has "softened up," Cojuangco said "nothing has changed." He added that since the new association's Constitution and by-laws is finalized by the five stakeholders by next week, the new organ body would soon recognition from the POC general assembly to become the newest national sports association for basketball. Whether or not the same BAP would be maintained, if only for its sentimental or historical value, or a new one would be adopted is left to the discretion of the stakeholders.

My concern, however, said then could be a legal problem in using the name BAP because whether basketball stays the Asiago owns the legal right to the name Basketball Association of the Philippines Inc. He is ready to go to court if anyone messes with it, my sources added.

The embattled BAP was expelled last June from the local Olympic body by 33 members of the POC general assembly for voting for the 100% ouster, the assembly said the national sports association for basketball did not only show disrespect to the POC by emerging on an agreement, but it was concerned with the embarrassing performances of BAP-supported national teams in recent years.

After the BAP was expelled, the Philippine Basketball Federation was formed to take its place and was recognized by the POC. While the expulsion of the 70-year-old BAP did not sit well with some basketball diehards, many say the POC should not be faulted for its ouster. The BAP has only itself to blame for its predicament.

From former basketball official and now Cebu Rep. Edmundo Cullen once urged the BAP "to accept its expulsion from the POC and give the PBF all the room to perform its duty as the most governing body for Philippine basketball." A BAP vice president for the Visayas during the administration of two-time Miss president Gonzalo "Gito" Duque and former vanda of the multibillion-P2.9 Lanzon, Cullen was earlier tapped to head the PBF but he bogged off citing old age and his duties in Congress. In his place, Bienvenido "Benjing" Montelibano, a longtime secretary general of the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC), was elected unopposed.

In the affidavit of the BAP's ouster from the POC, Cojuangco said if the Philippines from all international cage tournaments under its aegis, including last year's 23rd Southeast Asian Games, where the Filipinos were the defending men's cage champions.

However, Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann said the Philippines would still regain its Fiba membership by hosting another cage body even before March 31, 2006.

"He confirms the five stakeholders would get the job done and meet the March 31 deadline," Cojuangco said.

The BAP was expelled from the POC for stepping on an agreement it forged with the POC regarding the formation of a well-trained national team following the humiliating setbacks suffered by the Philippines in recent years.

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Pabico

# JVC badminton Cebu regionals kick off April 3

THE JVC BADMINTON REGIONAL CIRCUIT BEGINS April 3 in Cebu City with Pampanga, Davao and Baguio legs to follow soon after.

The four-stage series makes not only each prizes but also leveler in the JVC Open Badminton Championships slated in Manila in July.

The JVC regionals, sponsored by JVC Victor Industrial Corp. distributed by Prosser Industrial Sales, Inc. and Ringo Avenida and backed by The YSM, Pinoy Exchange, Pinoyrx, Symbols , Alaska and Cebu Holiday Spa, is now accepting registrations.

For inquiries and complete details, log on to www.badmintonphilippines.com or e-mail at jvcbad-minton@hotmail.com or call 09178050926 (Quezon); 09178050860 (Cavite); 09175288976 (Subic).

GINTONG LAHI AWARDS

# Local horse racing's best and brightest feted tonight

THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST THOROBREDS of local horse racing the past year will be honored during the 8th Philstar Gintong Lahi Awards tonight at the Diamond's Hermanos along Aspiras Street in Makati City.

Local godfather Speed Advantage, Head Agency Leader King, Team Rookie Assignment and Special Edition, as well as mature Filly Orchid head the elite cast of nominees in the equine category.

Leading the nominees in the human category are Jockey Eugene A. Asilum "Butch" Dycoy, Head Coaches Philbuilder diamond Daniel Lim and a slew of other notable personalities who stood out during the 2005 racing season.

"We're looking forward to another memorable Gintong Lahi Awards night," said Philstar president Marjorie Ho "Winnie" Silva Jr.

The Gintong Lahi Awards, established as the Oscars of local racing, was set up eight years ago to honor the best racing horses and personalities.

Nobody checked emerged as last year's crown duos, sailing Import.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Beach volley refs' course set

### PCAP 5-cock derby today

# Fast Cars. Fast Cash. Fast Winners.

Congratulations to the following winners of P25,000.00!

For the January 31 draw:

1. Lauro S. Espina - Kalookan City
2. Danilo C. Ganitnit - Bacoor, Cavite
3. Denise Jane S. Regis - Makati City

For the February 14 draw:

1. Samanoding S. Mangadang - Davao City
2. Carmelita L. Castillo - Lipa City
3. Elpidio S. Dulay - Quezon City

You could be the next winner. Apply now.

Next draw will be on February 28, 2006.
The grand draw for P1 MILLION will be on May 12, 2006.
Promo runs until April 28, 2006.

You're in good hands with METROBANK PSBank

Fast Car, Fast Cash

# ENTERTAINMENT

Edited by Ernie S. Velarde

## Stick to issues–Martinez

FAP head says his quarrel is with Vic del Rosario, not Edu

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"LET US STICK TO THE MAIN ISSUES," SAID Leo Martinez, director general of the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP), referring to the ongoing word war involving himself and Victoria del Rosario, presidential consultant for the entertainment industry; Edu Manzano, Optical Media Board (OMB) chief; and Jesse Alcuaz, Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) chair.

Martinez has accused del Rosario of jumping the new Shooting Schedule for the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) 2005, hoping...coming down the throats of the FAP and Marian Pictures Inc. Producers Council and allowing [illegible] such in the MMFF and the FDCP.

"I will not be distracted," Martinez vowed. "I am still waiting for an explanation of the legal and ethical implications [illegible] of the multiple [illegible] fund. Funds from local government units cannot be funneled back to national government offices like the DBM and the FDCP which already receive funding through the General Appropriations Act."

Martinez insisted that del Rosario should do the explaining, "but he counters Manzano and Alcuaz."

**Distaste?**

"Is he a threat?" Martinez said."Why is he saying that he didn't need to consult the FAP [on the ratchet]?"

As for the raging controversies involving OMB, Martinez shrugged, "That's [Manzano's] problem. This is not between him and me."

Both del Rosario and Manzano have [illegible]

STORY A2-3

## Michiko, 'Maxi,' 'Magnifico'!

CHEER FACTOR

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TRIPLE TREASURES

A day after six pictures' "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" won the Gatpuy for Best Student Film at the Berlin Interna- tional [illegible] Festival, more good news followed. It was also declared "Best Film by the three-national Jury of Kinderfilmfest and Second Best Film by the Children's Jury.

The "Gatpuy is for gay-theme [illegible]

MOVIES A2-3

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

a world to discover

Get music overload with Asia's Multi-Platinum Pop Idol!

Christian Bautista

Dial 101-123 and get unlimited access to music!

PLDT myMUSIC UNLIMITED ACCESS

NOW CHRISTIAN IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY!

- Listen and send song snippets to your loved ones
- Talk to him LIVE on Feb 17 and 24 over Wave 89.1. Watch him on line via www.mypad.net.

Log on to www.mypad.net

New Album Completely Out Now!

WAVE 89.1

WARNER MUSIC PHILIPPINES

PLDT

infocom

MySPLoad's 24/20 1 Day Unlimited

Internet na simbilis ng text. 24 hours straight. P20 lang!

Just text MySP to 483.

SMART

AYALA CENTER
TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
AYALA MALLS Loveyamall!

Countdown Uptown 2006
5 Countdown Venues
Special Thanks to:
MRO
Time to Party

At the Activity Center

| GLORIETTA | TOWN CENTER | AYALA CENTER CEBU |
|---|---|---|
| Waiting for Mari Line Extension February 27, 2006 | Baby Looney Tunes in The Beaux Little Stars February 24 to 26, 2006 | Global Entrepreneurship Center of Kaya's Commencement Rites February 28, 2006 |

AYALA GREENBELT
Ayala Greenbelt's Chocolate Festival
February 13 to 26, 2006

Repertory Philippines presents
Onstage
I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE
@ REP's Globe Theater
February 17 to 19, 24 to 26, March 3 to 5, 10 to 12, 2006
For inquiries, pls. call 757-7777

Ayala MUSEUM
Come & view the
2006 ASEAN INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBIT
For inquiries, please call 757-7777 ex 21 or 26
Or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS
THX
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 730 7777

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 | 1 PINK PANTHER | 2 CLOSE TO YOU | 3 FIREWALL | 4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU |
| G4 | 1 CLOSE TO YOU | 2 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN | 3? | |
| | 4 GOAL | 5 AEON FLUX | 6 FUN WITH DICK & JANE | 7 PINK PANTHER |
| GB1 | 1 PINK PANTHER 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 8:45 | | 2 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 11:10, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10 | |
| GB3 | 1? PINK PANTHER 2:40, 4:55, 7:00, 9:15, 11:25 | | 2? BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20 | |
| | 3 FIREWALL 2:05, 4:15, 6:10, 8:45, 10:55 | 4 MUNICH 2:30, 6:00, 7:30, 11:00 | 5 AEON FLUX 1:45, 3:55, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00 | |
| ATC | 1? PINK PANTHER | 2 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN | | |
| | 3 CLOSE TO YOU | 4 GOAL | 5 AEON FLUX | |
| ACC | 1 PINK PANTHER | 2 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN | 3 CLOSE TO YOU | 4 MUNICH |

Onstage
The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays and corporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2006
For bookings, pls. call Lissa at 752-7862

All-Digital Cinemas
MARKET! MARKET!
The Film is in the finals
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 GOAL
3 AEON FLUX
4 PINK PANTHER
5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

EVENTS! EVENTS!
Christian Bautista
Completely
MALL TOUR
Feb. 18, Saturday, 4pm
Feb. 23, Saturday, 4pm
Feb. 26, Sunday, 4pm

Exclusive SCREENING
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
starting FEBRUARY 22

ARANETA CENTER
Gateway MALL Farmers Plaza
Gateway CINEMA 1-10
CLOSE TO YOU | BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN | PINK PANTHER | GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
THE NEW WORLD | FIREWALL | AEON FLUX | BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU | GOAL | FUN WITH DICK & JANE | GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
MUNICH
MALL CINEMAS
1 GOAL | 2 CLOSE TO YOU | 3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
4 PINK PANTHER | 5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU | IMAX 3D
For ticket inquiries, please call Ticketnet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph
ARANETA COLISEUM
WWE RAW LIVE TOUR | 9th PILIPINAS CORONATION NIGHT

BIGGER
BIG BROTHER HOUSE 2
OPENS FEBRUARY 22

## ROUNDUP

### Pinay in US dance finals

CHERYL Bautista Burke with Mick Lachey's brother Drew

CHERYL Bautista Burke, a Filipina-American, is one of the finalists in "Dancing with the Stars," seen live on Wednesday, 9 p.m. Philippine time, on ABC TV.

Cheryl and her celebrity partner, singer Drew Lachey (Nick's brother) of the band 98 Degrees, are among the four teams picked out of 10 who will battle it out during the grand finale on Feb. 23. Cheryl and Drew scored high ratings, combining for 40 points, garnering one perfect 10, two 9s, one 8 and one 7.

The pixie Pinay grew up in San Francisco, California. Her mother Sherri became a theatre, a native of San Jose. Warren Bolja, has been featured in "Good Morning America," on a successful hair-coloring experiment.

Cheryl, 22, started ballet lessons at age 4. At age 16, she discovered ballroom dancing and started training in standard dance and latin. She started competing abroad at at age 17. She emerged champion in the 2005 World Cup Professional Rising Star.

MIGHT Hakaquan, Pops Fernandez, Zsa Zsa Padilla and Rob Lachenez

### Back in Greenhills

RISH Lachenez is back in Greenhills, San Juan, with Boston—"small chorine" is at the 90-minute—for network shopping and dining destination.

Rishina is very similar to Lachenez's former place, Rhein Museum—but smaller, with a seating capacity of only 20, and this often more intimate. The singer-cut-impressions adds, "It also has a bigger stage and a state-of-the-art sound and lighting system."

Rishina formally opened last month with Lachenez onstage, with friends Zsa Zsa Padilla, Pops Fernandez and Regine Velasquez.

NICK Lachey and Jessica Simpson

### Needy ex

LOS ANGELES—Nick Lachey is seeking spousal support from his divorcing wife Jessica Simpson, and he wants his jewelry back.

In court papers filed Friday in response to Simpson's Dec. 16 divorce filing, Lachey cited irreconcilable differences for the dissolution of the three-year marriage.

Lachey, 32, also asked for "unconditional jewelry and other personal effects," his savings and accumulations from and after the date of separation and other to be determined assets.

Lachey said he and Simpson, 25, separated Dec. 15, although she denies it was Dec. 12.

The couple, who starred in their own MTV reality show, "Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica," had no prenuptial agreement. Lachey, who joined forces as a member of the boy band 98 Degrees, had more earning power when the couple wed in October 2002. However, Simpson's fame skyrocketed during the marriage. The 25-year-old singer-actress reportedly earned more than $30 million last year. AP

### Singing actors

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood stars Jennifer Jones, Scarlett Johansson and Reese McGregor are among 24 actors who are breaking into song for an untamed celebrity-studded music album, producers said Wednesday.

The actors have agreed to explore their musical side for "Encanto-ted Dreams: Songs from the Stars," an album aimed at helping a musical education program of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

"Lost in Translation" and "Match Point" star Johansson, 21, will sing The Georgia and Six Revolvers classic "Summertime." Actress

EMAN Pacquiao

McGregor will croon Janis's "The American Girl" and Jennifer Aniston will sing Bob Dylan's classic "To Make You Feel My Love."

Other stars taking part in the sessions, to be recorded by Rhino Records, include Jennifer Garner, Eric McCormack, Lucy Liu, Drew and John Stamos. AFP

POLITROT BY BILL SPERED

A. LIPIN BY EDS ABRERA

MARTIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY NIN JUNIOR

BIG BY BLUES BY JIMMY SCOTT

HUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

ATOMIC AND NEBBY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PAULSEN

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

HUBERSCOPES BY JOHNIE TOLEDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

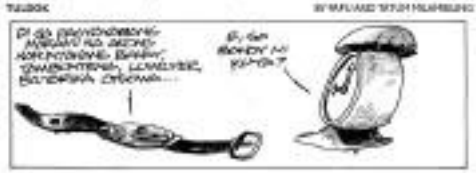
## DAILY CROSSWORD



KIKO MACHINE BY NIKKI ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULBOK BY MUHAMAD SYUKRI MUHAMMAD



# Stick ...

Pretzeplay A2-1

But IMF's only achievement is the annual farce awards, said Martinez. "Our mandate is to hand out awards, settle the public and pocketbook after the industry."

The undersecretary he said, is proof that "a producer ... shouldn't serve as a presidential consultant because it leads to a conflict of interests."

He MIF director-general, he said, "I have nothing to lose or gain. I am not a producer. I am not a politician."

**Palace probe**

INF chair Atty. Rodolfo Lara told Inquirer Entertainment that the issue has reached the palace.

The INF and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) were invited to the Palace on Monday by the chief of staff of the office of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, and Lara.

The MMDA, which is in charge of the MMFF, was represented by Bally Juan, chief of staff of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

"I look forward to a fair and equitable decision by Malacañang within the week because both sides have been heard," Lara said.

Film industry leaders are scheduled to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo today, according to Martinez and Sec. Ermita, vice chair of the Anti-Film Piracy Council and president of the National Council on the Welfare of the Philippine Child.

Ermita has agreed with Lara: "Remember this issue, emotions needs to sit down and discuss it thoroughly. Perhaps we should invite the 3rd Reserve to a dialogue with us. Many times something like kalokohan should be sealed, not divided by this issue."

# Michiko, 'Maxi' ...

Pretzeplay A2-1

Hino and Kimiko Hino to the Berlinale's children's category according to Mikiko Yamamoto, organizer.

Yamamoto said the Berlinale director was looking for "a local film for children," like the scripted Maxie J. de la Reyes' "Magdalena," which topped the Berlinale's in 2005.

"We think our son will be Berlinale's Opening night legend "The Lost Child" for their many films given by the Berlinale for the Promotion of Asian Cinema, an association of artists," said Yamamoto of "Maxi's" appearance.

"I'm so happy for the ["Maxi"] team. I've lost count of the number of times we've seen it. It feels great because it's also her film."

Yamamoto noted the Berlinale news around Sambrano in Manila on Saturday, an event manager from Berlinale International, who was in Germany with director Antonio Isidro.

The finds come with a seed grant of $10,000 (50,000).

"My hope is now that with prize in hand to our projects, like 'Sayang Bongga' [One Night]"


SM CINEMA
movietime
LIVE-LARGE
My Funny Valentine!
SM NORTH EDSA CINEMA 1
February 24, 2006, 8:00 PM
SM Southmall Cinema 1
February 25, 2006, 5:00 PM
NASAAN KA FRANCIS?
February 21, 2006 – 7:05 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 3
METRO MANILA
METRO EAST
NOVALICHES
CITISQUARE MALABON
PIONEER
STA. ROSA
LIPA
DASMARINAS
ANGELES
IMUS
STARMILLS
BACOLOD
ILOILO
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE
CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
GALLERIA
ERMITA
METRO EAST
NOVALICHES
CITISQUARE MALABON
PIONEER
Exclusive SCREENING
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
FEBRUARY 22
STA. ROSA
LIPA
DASMARINAS
ANGELES
IMUS
STARMILLS
BACOLOD
ILOILO
The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

# Show biz challenge for champ

By Nini Valera

A MONTHLY ALLOWANCE, FIRST-CLASS TRAVEL ACCOMMODATIONS and a trust fund—Manny Pacquiao is willing to give them to the boy that Joan Rivers says is their son.

"I just want to make that clear," Pacquiao told Inquirer Entertainment over the phone from Los Angeles, where he is training for a movie that will start shooting in March.

He refused to say how much this son, but agreed that the price was rounds higher than his P700,000 talent fee for starring in a movie last year, "Lawmaking Bantay," with new actresses Juliana Palermo and Aubrey Miles.

Pacquiao hand-picked actor Jericho Rosales to portray him in the FLT movie simply titled, "Pacquiao." He explained his choice: "Artistahin siya boksing."

## Difficult

To an exhaustive interviewer, Pacquiao said because, "It's difficult to be in both show biz and [sports]."

He is set to make two other movies, a fantasy film and a sci-fi/action comedy.

In a separate interview, "Pacquiao" director Joel Lamangan said she has yet will not be treated as an ordinary boxing film. "It has to reflect the social and cultural makeup of the place where he grows up—and which shaped his mind, and who he now considers himself to be," he said.

At the same time, the director said, "This boxer will not be a caricature or a stereotype; he will also be human."

Pacquiao is human.

MANNY Pacquiao

He complained of lack of sleep as because Entertainment during the interview.

"I only have two hours of sleep a day at the most," he said. He admitted that he missed going to the mall and that his wife had complained about his not having enough time for the family.

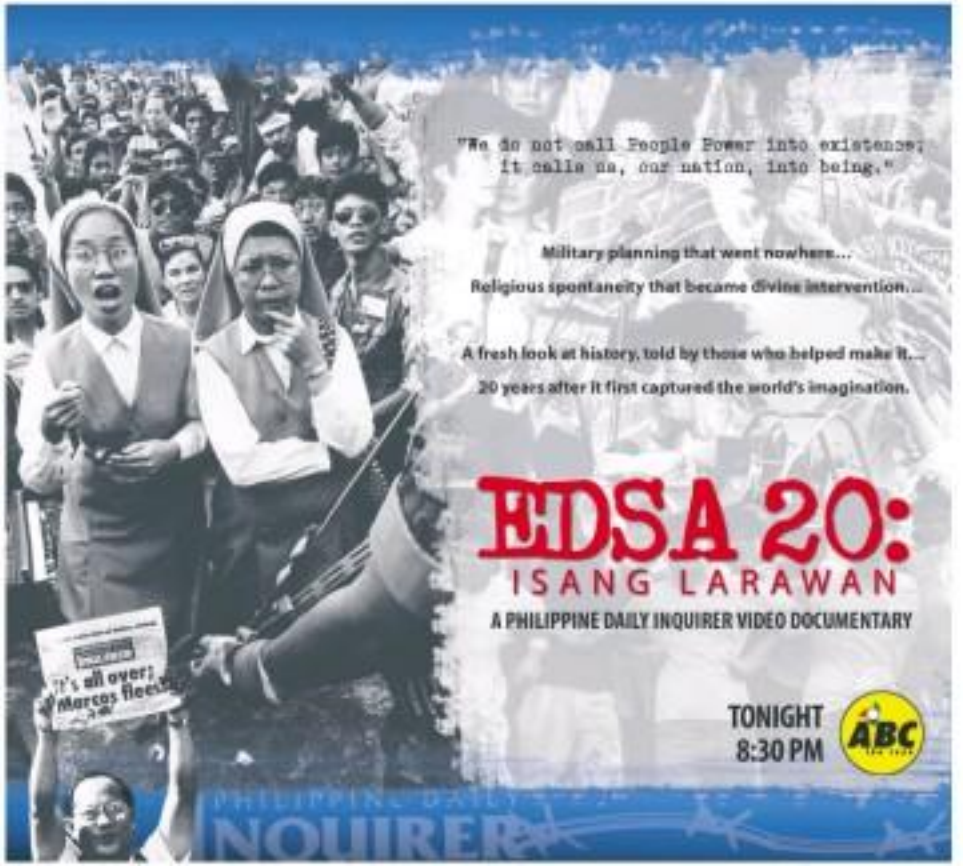
"Kaydos rides; I'm no longer a boxer, I can make it up to her," he said.

And what would he be if he were no longer a boxer? "I would be a movie producer, maybe," he said.

Pacquiao could also be a comedian. Asked who his favorite actor was, he said, "Eddie."

Eddie who? Garcia?

"E, of also," Pacquiao said with glee.



# Upbeat developments on the Filipino film front

SOME PEOPLE THINK IT'S A COCKEYED OPTIMISM for multimedia declaring that, despite the Filipino movie industry's poor showing last year, we're in for better film times in 2006.

Well, only evidence may tell us right, but here it is, only February and Star Cinema has already released two new films.

If the studio keeps this pace up, it could churn out really new movie each month, totalling 12 for 2006—from one movie company alone. That's a lot, especially when compared with last year's meager output.

One of the big movies that Star Cinema is heralding is the film for hearing idol Bianca Gonzalez, with Aubrey Miles playing the title role. The film will be co-produced by PCI.

Other studios' productions that have been announced include a Camille Prats starrer and an "Agent X-44"-type of by Hilarry Navarro.

Regal Entertainment is also revving up for a busy year for first movie for 2006, "I still Always Love You," is reported to have grossed P50M on its first week, which makes it a certified hit.

Other Regal movies in the works include Rottweiler (Jaddi's launching vehicle as a new star, which the studio is co-producing with GMA Films.

Co-productions seem to be the way to go this year, after their success in the 2005 Metro Manila Film Festival.

This is one way that cash-strapped producers can handcraft expensive productions that will draw viewers back to theaters showing local movies.

But budget productions can still be expected to dominate the local filmmaking scene, as the digital trend continues to generate more adherents.

The 2006 Cinemalaya alternative filmfest has already drawn the digital feature projects that will each be given a seed grant of P500,000 for showing by the middle of the year.

And the Cinema One movie channel will host seven more digital features, with a total production grant of P350,000 each. This year, the channel is looking for movies about the Filipino family.

These upbeat developments show that there are enough people out there who haven't resigned themselves to melodramatically and mawkishly mourning the "death" of Filipino movies, and are prepared to work hard to help energize them back to dynamic life.

Why not join this more upbeat group by supporting their efforts with your patronage?

Even if you don't like some of the local films you watch, your consistent patronage —and constructive criticism—will be important components in the Filipino movie industry's longawaited "resurrection."

## Catherine Deneuve

It's great to hear that the 2006 Bangkok International Film festival (Feb. 17-27) will honor French actress Catherine Deneuve with its Golden Elephant Career award for her contribution to cinema.

The presentation will be made during the festival's Award Gala on Feb. 24 at the Conrad Hotel.

Deneuve is known for her work with international film directors. Her career worldwide praises, spruce in 1964 as Jacques Demy's "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg." The film will be screened at the Bangkok filmfest in a special festival presentation on Feb. 22.

Nominated for an Academy Award in 1992 for performance in "Indochine," Deneuve has won Cesar Awards (France) for "The Last Metro" and "Indochine." Indochine honored her work as Best Actress in Luis Bunuel's 1967 masterpiece, "Belle de Jour."

Deneuve's other exceptional movies include "Repulsion" by Roman Polanski, "Tristana" by Bunuel, "Manoniqua 1964/mal" by Francois Truffaut, and "Dancer in the Dark" by Lars von Trier.

Liberated and independent in her private life, Deneuve had a child by Roger Vadim in 1963 and another by Marcello Mas- troianni in 1972, but did not marry either one of them. Her marriage to British photographer David Bailey ended in divorce.

Even in her 60s, Deneuve is an exquisite beauty, aloof and detached. In reason- but vital treasure of her films, she was pas-

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 PINK PANTHER
3 PINGA SAI 2006
2 ASIAN FILMS
4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
PREMIERE THEATRE

Catch the Cineplex Special

Get a mini Shalon Khalifa Cash Certificate worth P100.00 for every single purchase of two (2) tickets of any movie at the Shang Cineplex.

Shangri-la Plaza

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN
PINK PANTHER
ARSENIC AND OLD LACE
HOAX

687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS

POWER PLANT CINEMA

exclusive SCREENING

Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA • ERMITA • NOVALICHES

starring
FEBRUARY 22

MURDER

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Filanet
FESTIVAL CINEMAS
EASTWOOD CINEMAS
CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Raod
Cinema 2000 Walmart Mall
Cinema 2000 Alabang Town Center
Cinema 2000 Cinemagic
Cinema 2000 Metrobase
Cinema 2000 Walkermart
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
Blue Wave
SUPER CINERAMA
Eclipse Cinemas Complex Iloilo
stormall
Megacore
Cyma Mall Cinema
Jade Cinema
Cine Mega
Cine Mega
Cyma Plaza Cinema
Cyma Mall Cinema
Cyma Cinema
Cyma MarioCity
Pinoy World Mall
Bonny Cinema
THEATRES
PACIFIC MALL CINEMAGIC

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

OPENS WEDNESDAY

THE FINAL CHAPTER TO THE #1 HORROR HIT

Max's
Chocolate
Lava Cake
Exquisitely filled with warm dark chocolate.
Topped with vanilla ice cream and chocolate syrup.
For only P99. (vat exclusive)

Max's

# Funny 'Mega Valentine'

By Rianne Sun Diego Jr.

SHADES OF COMEDY could very well be Sharon Cuneta's encore story.

The euphoric "My Mega Valentine," her Feb. 12 concert at the Araneta Coliseum, the multi-media artist dispensed sloppy valentines, largely unrecognized and unrehearsed, mostly ad-libbed.

So one, nothing was sacred—from her fluctuating weight to former partner Bobbi Bonilla, who made an unexpected entrance from his seat in the bleachers.

Cuneta even took on audience favorite Manny Pacquiao, alluding to the controversy in the boxing champ's love life. "Boys will be boys..."

"Only Sharon can get away with this," quipped guest Rob Jackson, who designed one of Cuneta's gowns. As one point, Jackson pinned Magic's shirt in place right in front of the 18,000-strong audience.

## Eye candy

PBA flat-top Jerry Manuel, performers Christopher de Leon and Christian Bautista were relieved to spy candy for the weary-to-the-audience.

Musical director Louie Ocampo's arrangements were slick, the latter to emphasize the star's emotive skills.

Sessions for last time she performed at the Big Dome was four years ago ("The Mega Retro"). Cuneta obviously relished the OPM (Original Pilipino Music) numbers.

Highlights were the Dionisio-helmed "Pasilaw," the Ryan Cayabyab duet with Ledesma ("Sabi Ko Sa Mahal"), a heartfelt "Rose" (with harpist Noelle Cuevas), "Bituing Walang Ningning" and, in encore, the Manilenses' anthem, "Sunset Sa Manila Bay, Walang."

Yet another proclamatory of a Cuneta concert is the star going down the stage to join the crowd, which she did at the start of the show, much to the consternation of the colossal security.

At concert's end, the crowd, expecting Cuneta to do it again, rushed to the front, hitting cameras. She didn't descend the stage again, but our compadrazgo underwent tentative reassignment as a gift.

The night not happen in other counsels, but for Manilenses it was just another night with their idol.

The good news is, there's talk of a repeat.

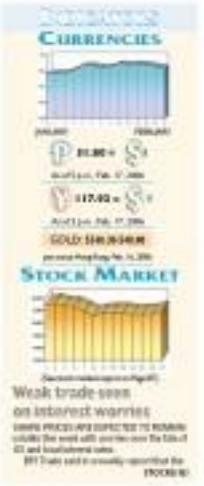
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Monday, February 26, 2001
Find out who will be the next...
ON YOUR IDOL NETWORK
ABC
American Idol
Wednesday & Thursday
Now Playing!
TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

PC BUYER'S GUIDE
The No.1 Computer Magazine in the Philippines

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2006 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1
BUSINESS

ThinkPad Think IT.
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.

# HSBC's fearless forecast: ₱47.50 to $1




## Says sustained fiscal discipline to aid peso

By Michelle V. Remo

HONG KONG SHANGHAI BANKING CORP (HSBC) SAID THE PESO could appreciate to below 50 to a dollar and even get a credit-rating upgrade before the end of the year if the government's positive fiscal performance in 2005 would be sustained.

Asmik Mehra, HSBC treasurer and head of global markets, said in a conference forum last week that the peso could hit 49.50 against the greenback around June, and harden outright to 47.50 in the fourth quarter if the government's revenue targets would be hit.

"Markets may price in a credit upgrade should fiscal numbers improve and should we have a stable political landscape," Mehra said during last Friday's Economic Review and Outlook for 2006 organized by the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP).

He said oil prices were not expected to be as volatile as last year because of the projected slowdown in the growth of the world economy that would dampen demand. The Philippines, which imports most of its oil requirements, is therefore not likely to experience pressures on its currency given the softening oil prices.

Last year, the Philippine government registered massive spending as budget deficit of some ₱146.5 billion, way below the official target of ₱189 billion set for 2005.

The lower-than-programmed deficit was due to tightened spending and higher revenues collected from state-owned firms and investments of the Bureau of the Treasury in dollar-denominated sovereign bonds.

But Mehra said the positive fiscal performance last year should be sustained if the government wanted to finally get the elusive upgrade on the country's credit ratings and to "tie peso to strengthen and breach the 50-to-a-dollar mark."

(MORE IN B4)

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Equitable boardroom betrayal / B3
Deficit seen to reach P147.4B in '06 / B8
Philippines world's best in IT / B12

## RPN 9, IBC 13 bidding attracts investors

By Clarissa S. Bautista

THE PLAYERS HAVE CHANGED, but the game remains the same.

Two years after the government awarded the rights to operate the two biggest television networks to businessmen with close ties to President Arroyo, the two networks are again being awarded to businessmen with close ties to the President.

This time, the networks are RPN 9 and IBC 13, which were awarded to businessmen Manuel V. Pangilinan and Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr., respectively, in 2004 when they were under the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

Pangilinan is a close friend of President Arroyo, while Cojuangco is a cousin of Mrs. Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Pangilinan's group, which includes businessmen Ramon S. Ang and Ricardo J. Romulo, is expected to sign the contract to buy RPN 9 from the government on Monday, February 20, while Cojuangco's group, which includes businessmen Ricardo P. Manapat and Jose Ma. Concepcion III, is expected to sign the contract to buy IBC 13 on Tuesday, February 21.

Both contracts will be signed at Malacañang Palace.

Sources said the Pangilinan group is paying ₱2.6 billion for RPN 9, while the Cojuangco group is paying ₱2.1 billion for IBC 13.

Both networks are being sold by the government through a public bidding conducted by the Asset Privatization Trust (APT).

Sources said that Pangilinan, popularly known as MVP, and Garcia, former president of PLDT-DCCP Broadcasting Corp., were planning to list jointly the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT)-controlled Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. into the country's most profitable company and broadcasting powerhouse.

(MORE IN B1)

If we dream of a multi-platform, dual-core ready workstation that provides blazing x64 performance, and supports 32 / 64-bit applications?

MEET THE NEW SUN ULTRA 20 WORKSTATION.

AMD Opteron

HIGHLIGHTS

Sun Ultra 20 Workstation
The Ultimate Developer Platform

• Software Development
• UML
• IDEs
• Simulation*
• System Administration

solaris

SRP 65,900.00

Call + 63.2 810.9301 / 812.7666

it's our business to make your business grow
sales@wisphil.com.ph +63 2 818.9301 +63 2 812.7666


# Avoiding jobless growth

NO FREE LUNCH

*Cielito F. Habito*

THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT'S MAIN strategy to fight poverty is to pursue economic growth, declares my friend Rep. Joey Salceda, a key economic adviser of the President. In the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) "Economic Review and Outlook for 2006" forum last Friday (where our both governments' respective takes on our dismal economic performance, he pointed out how 70 percent of annual poverty reduction in other countries could be traced to economic growth, and only 30 percent to redistributive policies.

Studies from the UNDP and the World Bank that examine data across various countries to arrive at how best to cut to this. I touched my leadership of Sheila in 1992 with my late President Fidel V. Ramos debating that our government's priority task was to enlarge our national hitting pie, at a time when the economy was at a virtual standstill. And so economic growth picked up through the 1990s, as did poverty incidence decline quite significantly by the time we left office in 1998.

## Short of target

Note that it is not economic growth per se that leads to poverty reduction, but the jobs that are created with such growth. What worries me about this kind of growth we have been seeing of late is that growth is jobless and not labor-commensurate with growth in economic production. While we are not alone in this phenomenon called "jobless growth," the 6.1 to 6.5 percent employment shortfall stands to be denied.

The regular Labor Force Survey indicated that we created net new jobs, 809,000 jobs were created in the seven-year span. The net new jobs were accounted for 424,000 of these, agriculture contributed 249,000, and industry came up with the remaining 46,000 jobs.

The problem is, about one million new workers join the labor force yearly. This takes us that job creation had fallen short of the increase in workers looking for jobs. It's our mistake. Thus, that half a million workers were separated to have left for overseas jobs in the past two years.

## Job-quality down

Doesn't even more cause for concern. It's bad enough that the quantity of new jobs created did not measure up to employment and targets. The quality of the new jobs was likewise questionable, to say the least. Two things in the labor statistics bear this out.

One, underemployment rate—or the proportion of workers who indicated the desire to need to work more—rose sharply from 16.9 percent in October 2004 to 21.1 percent in October 2005. It's worth noting that a worker needs to have worked only one hour within the whole week previous to the survey to be classified as "employed." The numbers tell us that over a fifth of those who were working are in jobs that are not good enough, and that have


Do your managers let you sleep at night?

MANAGING FOR RESULTS

March 14-16
Mandarin Oriental Hotel

After the program, the participant will be able to:
• Develop like-all important standard essentials to managers
• Differentiate and implement various managerial tasks, roles and accountability
• Take the lead in meeting the various challenges of change in the workplace
• Positively influence their people
• Unlock the secrets to getting peak performances from their people
• Organize their people to unleash and keep their knowledge, skills and creativity
• Use communication and motivational tools to get big time results
• Solve problems and make decisions with increased confidence
• Delegate effectively to get more things done
• Employ discipline and coaching as a positive leadership tool
• Create and implement plans more effectively
• Monitor plans more closely to ensure attainment of these goals

Does your audience say "MORE" or "BORE..."?

POWERFUL PRESENTATION SKILLS

March 14-16
Edsa Shangri-La Hotel

After the program, the participants will be able to:
• Increase their confidence by reducing presentation stress
• Persuade their audience to accept rather than resist their message
• Plan for presentations to ensure appropriateness and completeness
• Prepare powerful openings that will address their audience's needs
• Start and end presentations with impact
• Design and use visuals that capture their audience's interest and attention span
• Present supportive and statistics in an interesting, simple and clear manner
• Animate their presentations through their choice of words, vocal delivery and body language
• Eliminate verbal mannerisms such as "ahhh" and "umm" that distract their audience
• Deliver presentations spontaneously to sound natural and confident
• Respond to hecklers and objections without getting into an argument or losing control
• Cope with a hostile audience

When customers lose their cool, do you lose yours, too?

HANDLING COMPLAINTS

March 21-22
Hotel Intercontinental Manila

After the program, the participants will be able to:
• Develop a positive mindset on the critical role of complaints to a business and their impact on the bottomline
• Maximize the opportunity to gain customer loyalty in a complaint situation
• Realize the relationship building opportunities behind every complaint
• Prepare emotionally and mentally to respond to complaints
• Know the "Do's and Don'ts" when dealing with an angry customer
• Develop proactive listening skills in order to discover a solution to the customer's concerns
• Defuse an angry with calming techniques, the right words, tone of voice and body language
• Realize suggestions to behaviors and light provoking phrases that do not help the customer solve the problem
• Diagnose problem situations and bring the customer to the solution
• Demonstrate the necessary steps on how to sell a solution that will regain the customer's trust and confidence
• Learn when to educate the customer in instances when the customer is at fault
• Preserve and strengthen their partnership with the customers through support building skills

If you want us to customize a program for 10 or more of your people, simply call us and we will gladly design one for you!

26 Years

Guthrie Jensen
CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT
SHARPER SKILLS FASTER RESULTS

For inquiries & reservations, call Avis, Caroline, Diane, LJ or Tessa at 892-7559, 816-1618, 894-0405 or 892-7081 or log on to www.guthrie-jensen.com

37 Glass Tower Bldg., Corbo Palanca St. St. Ligaspi Village, Makati City


# RPN 9, IBC 13 bidding

From page B1

ously losing Philplans Telephone Corp. into a money-making valve.

"It helps that the politics basically of Prexie with ABS-CBN is about to end so he is free to continue with anybody," said a source, referring to the two company chiefs of Garcia's relationship from the Lopez-owned network.

The duo may tie-up with Solar Entertainment, which is controlled by Wilson Tieng. Solar has a programming contract with RPN 9.

Dr Cielito, according to the source, was interested to produce the news content for IBC 13.

But the owner of Vice President Noli de Castro is unlikely to join a team that would include Garcia.

Dr Castro is reportedly organizing a news team to buy a block-time in IBC 13.

"He is not going to buy the entire network. Apparent by the group of El Shaddai is already controlling it," said another source.

Wilson, broadcaster Ben Tan Sanchez, according to sources, may join Garcia if he succeeds in beating into RPN 9, according to sources.

Ben Tan declined to comment on his impact in RPN 9. But a source close to him said that the station will be commercial intensive despite to coming correct with Solar Entertainment.

"If you watch the block-times in the succeeding days, then it might work," the source said.

Tieng, however, said he has not received yet proposal from Panglilinan to bid together for RPN 9. "You can't beat with RPN 9 is close? even. It just got extended," said the owner of Solar Entertainment.

Whether the government could generate the value to meet the target of the sale of Channel 9 remains to another matter.

Some analysts suggested the two stations could not fetch very attractive bids because most of their equipment were old and that much of the antenna, especially in IBC 13, have been used by block-timer like GMA7.

# HSBC's . . .

From page B1

(Those numbers would not be so good as reported, then the peso could stay within the 51 level, he said.

The national government's budget deficit for January is reported to be announced anytime this week.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz earlier expressed optimism that the target of reducing the deficit to P124.9 billion for the full year was not difficult to accomplish. He cited the decline in interest rates as a factor explaining that the reduce the cost of the government's borrowings.

But the first quarter results it is yet to be seen whether the first targets for the full year would be attained. Bokers said the peso would range between 51.70 to 51.75 to the dollar.

Bokers added that interest rates are expected to be stable this year, with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' main keeping the benchmark rates at 7.5 percent given the high level of liquidity in the system.

# Equitable boardroom betrayal

FIDENTE PAHLEJU IS VEPPORO TO BE a nonmember of the Bancnolor Cree Group as the Equitable PCIBank board, but the banker did the unthinkable when, without consulting his principals, he took a senior courtesy to the BDO position.

During Friday's supercharged executive committee meeting, Pahleju unilaterally presented an anti-takeover supporting the promotion of GSIS president Winston Garcia, which was, to narrate the bank's 30 percent investory shareholder that of the GSIS stake.

The long and the short of it was that, following this spit one among the BDO nominees led by Teresita Sy-Coson, Pahleju stepped his investorship and left the Makati headquarters.

Some whom he had touch? At the Century Park Hotel in Manila, where, as a private function event, ex-Philippine Star coed Rosh hosted an indoor circle Pandits were treated to a rumpus-bumchiny, we-are-not-kidding, saipan Lucio Tan no less.

Some what the hot topic of the lunch one?

**La Salle and GMA**

THE PRESIDENT has resorted to hiding behind an investigating committee, while his top lawyers seek to stifle the proceedings inside the investigation.

In the meantime, the president's aides switch to the witch hunt and suppression mode.

Movie like appearances and the faint scandal? So, not to worry, but for one referring to Ledlie Cavanilla president Bernardo Vea's bundling of the school's "bulk" loans.

Instead of calling the journals face-to-face

## Weak trade seen on interest worries

Previous page B1

US federal bourse heard that the future of interest rates would be influenced by economic reports.

"Some of the US economic reports that came out this week support the view of a rate hike in the next fed meeting. Investors are wary that if US interest rates rise, the Peoples Central for Pakistan also hikes domestic interest rates as well, and this would weigh on the market," BPI Trade said.

For the week, the benchmark index rose 17 points or 0.6 percent, buoyed by late gains framing after the speaker touched a low of 2,044 last week, positive corporate earnings results and the selling outlook upgrade to "stable" by Standard and Poor's ratifies Ratings.

BPI Trade also said that helped bolster investors' appetite was the drop in oil prices and the gains on Wall Street. Elsewhere, Asia has

## Cocktales

*Victor C. Agustin*

and their respective exes to immediately resolve an escalating problem, the school even deferred for next week what originally had been last Friday's release of its now three-month-long investigation of the bully issue.

Out with Jake, left. Or, for budget cuts?

Whoever, anywhere student who happens to be a son of the bearer of the rumor has suffered collateral damage, and is being asked to report to the principal's office on Monday.

Or is, in the meantime, it still refuses to meet and assure the parents of the bully's victim then, like when he Ledlie Bo others preach in GMA, transparency will be observed and parties will be served in the school grounds.

Despite already having been the subject of a complaint to November, the 16-year-old bully, a Grade 7 "repeater" and a notoriously grammar-challenged student who has had multiple run-ins with fellow students, remains in school. Apparently, the school's principal has yet to be informed of the bully's misdeeds.

The bully had already executed a fatal "no-contact" agreement with the offended party, being banned on him, which includes cell phone clerk, church hangout and regularly blocking the victim's Friendster allowance.

Instead of being dismissed or called for a the De La Salle rule book, the bully, who

**Phony-go-round**

● Asian Spirit is awaiting regulatory approval from Hong Kong authorities to begin charter flights from the Chinese territory to Boracay and Puerto Princesa.

● With Ayo condominium posting an 87 percent sales turnover as of reviewed, and the raising hiatus of the planned One Rockwell, Rockwell Land decided to retire a P714-million loan that matured last month. From P4.5 billion in total debts in 2000, the debts of the Lopez land development company have been reduced to almost P700 million, the latest one last year in 2006.

**Heard through the grapevine**

DBP CHAIR Vicdenon Nebagan II thinks Mike Arroyo is the cause of his problems in the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines.

(Email: cocktales_pebl@hotmail.net or cocktails_pebl@yahoo.com)


BEDRIDDEN WITH BEDSORES?

FLYPAD

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Upgrade Your Future

Get Certified

Become a Certified Management Accountant

Join the 7th CMA Program of Australia

CMA

The CIMA Program is a globally recognized program of the Institute of Certified Management Accountants in Australia.

The program develops skills of analysis and evaluation in the area of strategic cost and management practices while learning the organizational decision-making and communication skills essential for today's successful management professionals.

May 06 - July 22, 2006

Holiday Inn Galleria Manila

Tel. No.: 987-8888 / 634-8475-77

Email: info@cmaphilippines.com

Visit: www.cmaphilippines.com

REAL ESTATE FINANCE & INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

The Heights at Plantation Hills

PLANTATION

Join us in celebrating the bounty of Mother Nature as Belle Corporation opens its 5th Phase of the highly successful Plantation Hills, with a concert by The Bloomfields.

February 25, 2006 6:00pm at the Summer Garden, Highlands Chino Palace.

Be in Tagaytay Highlands as the Philippines' Hottest leisure property development plays host to the Hottest band in Metro Manila today!!!

the bloomfields

Too Young To LOSE Your Hair?

"Hair loss made me feel insular around people. Now that I have more hair from Svenson, I feel confident and become more active again!"

- Dens, 29 years old

BEFORE

When you're young, hair loss can drastically alter your looks and affect your self-esteem. As you lose your hair, your youthful appeal fades away too. Stop it effectively at Svenson. We offer proven treatments for eliminating the main cause of hair loss, restoring thickness for thinning strands and hastening re-growth. For extreme cases, you can even add more hair that's as natural as yours with our advanced replacements.

Don't let early hair loss ruin your youth. Call Svenson today and get a free hair and scalp check-up.

Svenson

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

Over the past five years, Alliance has grown to become one of the largest independent IT Solutions Providers in the Philippines with a vision base that includes some of Japan's biggest firms.

Today, Alliance is an accredited Software Business Partner of the world's IT leader, IBM.

Trust. Earned. Nurtured. Grown.

In Alliance, it's all about Trust.

Alliance

IBM

For concert ticket reservations, please call Tagaytay Highlands at (046)413-0826.

For information on Plantation Hills, please call Belle Corporation at (02)687-2885 or (0917)526-1253.

Highlands

BELLE

www.TagaytayHighlands.com

# Investments in hotels seen doubling to P4B

## DOT's job is to create demand for tourism industry, says Durano

DURANO

By Clarissa S. Ratcliffe

THE EXPECTED BOOST GROWTH IN tourist arrivals in the coming years is driving up investments in hotels and accommodation facilities.

For this year, Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano said investments in the hotel business were expected to double to about P4 billion from last year's P2 billion.

Durano said a Korean businessman had committed to invest P2 billion this year to put up a 1,500-room hotel in Mactan, Cebu City. Durano did not identify the Korean businessman but said he has businesses in Guam and New York. The investor, he said, was considering to have Hyatt, Sheraton or Intercon to manage the planned first-class hotel in Mactan.

"This Korean investor came to Cebu last year for the first time and fell in love with the place," said the tourism chief during a roundtable discussion with the business newsmen staff.

Another Korean group has also invested P500 million to golf course in Cagayan de Oro.

Koreans make up 15.5 percent of the tourists coming to the Philippines.

Banking giants Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. and Philippine National Bank are in the process of reopening two foreclosed hotels also in Cebu City. Metrobank will soon open Marco Polo Hotel while PNB will operate the foreclosed Coral Reef Hotel.

PNB senior Lucio Tan is expected to cap the new hotel Group, which also manages the Century Park Hotel, to operate Coral Reef Hotel, too Durano.

On top of these, about 10 resort operators in Boracay are planning to put up tourist facilities in Caticlan, Malay, he said.

Durano said additional rooms were needed to meet growing demand. Citing an inventory of four- and five-star tourist accommodation facilities in the country last year, Durano said the country has only 12,000 rooms available.

The number can accommodate three million tourists a year. However, shortage occurs during peak seasons.

Including pension houses and motels, the country's tourist arrivals would be about 2.6,000. "By the end of 2007, we expect additional 2,000 rooms under the four and five- star category," said Durano.

Durano said Cebu was the preferred destination of about half of the country's visitors, with Boracay coming in next.

Tourist arrivals in 2005 were placed at 2.6 million. The Department of Tourism expects the number to increase to at least 3 million this year.

Durano said 90 percent of these tourists preferred to stay in four- and five-star hotels.

The tourism chief is counting on Shangri-la's chain of resorts in Subic which are putting up hotels in Boracay, as well as other projects in the pipeline to help address the expected surge in the demand for tourist accommodation facilities in the country.

However, hotel projects take at least two years to complete.

He said hotels in Metro Manila and in Cebu had been feeling up their capacity to participation of the steady increase in tourist arrivals, which were expected to reach five million in 2010.

DOT studies showed that each tourist spends here an average of $90 a day. Japanese travelers spend at least $ 30 more each.

## The boy from Lupi

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

*Honorato C. General*

LUPI IS ONE OF THE SMALL TOWNS IN THE Municipality of Camarines Sur. Lupi used to be called a railroad town, along with two other equally small towns, Iriosan, until the Ambos Highway was opened about five years ago, it was accessible only by rail. An railroad town, Lupi's economy is almost entirely reliented on tourists.

Recently, my grandson Paco came from Naga City with eight classmates (one girl). They were all sophomores in Digital Illustration and Animation (DIA) at the Ateneo de Naga University (ADNU). I put them up at my house for the night. They attended a roundup conference on digital animation at UP Diliman.

DIA is a four-year diploma course offered only by ADNU. IDA is above my head, but I understand the computerized special effects you see on TV and the movies nowadays are the handiwork of DIA practitioners.

About 13 years ago, the late Fr. Ted Bonoan, S.J., then president of ADNU and who had been building computer courses, sent one of his faculty members to the IBA branch headquarters in Seattle to study IBA. Then he was sent to Holland to a company that invented IBA. When he came back, he designed the curriculum. Since then, the curriculum has been expanded and toughened.

DIA is the most expensive course to take. Tuition is P20,000 (a fabulous fortune in Naga) per semester. It is also the toughest. Dropout rate is high. Paco's sophomore class is down to 40 students. Money may get a lot done in our the freshmen year, but only talent and aptitude will pull him through the four-year grind.

For the past two years, a team from ADNU has come to Manila to compete in digital animation against teams from UP and St. Benilde. Naga has won the major prizes every year.

One look at Paco's companions and I knew they were all kids from faraway barrios. In fact, Paco tells me that some of his classmates is from the big city of Naga. His buddies were children of small businessmen, government employees and farmers.

Christopher Tapor is his friend) was the boy from Lupi. Once told me that Tapor is among the best students.

Tapor, an only child, stays in Naga with his widowed mother in a small rented apartment. His mother works at the City Hall. She probably has a hard time keeping both ends meet, but no sacrifice is too great for the hi-tech education of a talented son. That is a Filipino mother for you.

There is a lot of untapped talent in our backyard barrios. All that is needed is a window of opportunity. ADNU has opened a window into the wonderful hi-tech world of Digital Illustration and Animation. And bright kids and their parents are grabbing the chance.

Are there jobs waiting for Tapor and his classmates after graduation? You bet there are. Those who have finished the IBA course have found good-paying jobs in Metro Manila. Some have gone into the IBA business for themselves.

Soon jobs will open abroad where there is a strong demand for digital illustrators and animators. ADNU is expanding its DIA facilities (a five-story building is being planned), and the course is being improved. Tapor and his classmates are being groomed for export.

So what if our highly trained youth wind up working abroad? If Tapor gets a job in Hollywood, friends he has. Think of the glory he will bring to his mother and the small town of Lupi.

## TeleEye ties up with Microserve

THE TELEEYE GROUP, A HONG KONG-based manufacturer of security cameras and systems, is forming a joint venture with local information technology firm Microserve Computer Co. in a bid to expand its presence in the Philippines and in the region.

The joint venture company, TeleEye Philippines Inc., will be the group's flagship company in the country.

"Given the broad application of TeleEye products, we feel our success in Hong Kong can be continued to the Philippines," said Dr. Cliff Chan, TeleEye Group CEO.

"We are pleased to have Microserve Computers Co. as our partner, with its more than 18 years of experience in installing and servicing advanced circuit TV (CCTV) products," Chan added.

Considering the Philippines' well developed telecommunications and IT infrastructure, we believe that TeleEye has a great potential in the Philippine market," said TeleEye Philippines Inc. president Eugene Ching, who is also head of Microserve Computers.

The TeleEye system enables users to view live video of company operations remotely through various communication media (telephone lines, mobile network or the Internet. Video can be recorded to hard disks and retrieved later for playback.

Ching said the system could be integrated with video cameras, audio or loud-speaker devices for use in the management of retail operations, manufacturing and warehousing, administration of property and building; overseeing of unmanned and restricted premises, and traffic control.

TeleEye is also seeking partners to handle the markets in major cities and provinces nationwide.

An Invitation to the 2nd Market Masters Conference
MARKETING INNOVATION
March 15 (Wed) and 16 (Thurs), 2006 • PICC • 1 pm to 5:30 pm
Learn How the Marketing Gurus Reinvent Business and Gain Consumer Insights
March 15, 2006
• Spotting New Opportunities, New Business and New Products
• Successful Value Innovation in the FMCG Industry (The CC Case Study)
• Successful Value Innovation in the Personal Care Industry (The Beauty Exclusive Case)
March 16, 2006
• Spotting Consumer Insights that Can Help Formulate Your Big Ideas in Marketing and Sales
• Converting Consumer Insights into Creative Big Ideas
• Converting Consumer Insights into Big Ideas at the Point-Of-Purchase
Conference Investment
Mastermasters and Founders

# BSP to ease rules on banks' mutual fund investments

## Legal department sees flaws in old regulation

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS plans to liberalize an old regulation that bars banks from investing in mutual funds.

The move is aimed at boosting the fledgling fund supplied numbers.

BSP chief legal counsel Jesus de Luzuriaga said regulation that banks were not allowed to place their own money in mutual funds but, instead, they can manage such funds.

"It should be fund to a pool of funds from shareholders or plan participants that is invested in securities. The units or shares are redeemable by the fund on demand by the investor.

"There's a flaw in that regulation," Luzuriaga said. "They can't invest but they can manage? Why should you put money in a bank and have the resources and expertise to determine whether a mutual fund is doing well?"

He said the BSP's supervision and examination sector (SES) had received a proposal seeking the relaxation of this restriction and the legal department was in turn asked for a legal opinion on whether the law could be changed by a simple amendment by the policy-making Monetary Board.

The BSP's legal department said the risk involved in mutual fund investments might be borne if the banks managing them were investors themselves.

## Coconut output seen posting slower growth

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S COCONUT output and export volume are expected to grow at slower rates this year based on installed patterns in the previous years, an industry report showed.

The United Coconut Associations of the Philippines said coconut production in 2006 would reach about 2.66 million metric tons in copra terms, or an increase of 9.3 percent from 2.43 million in 2005.

This growth rate, however, would be lower than the 7.7 percent growth posted last year. Also, UCAP said export volumes were expected to increase this year by only 1.6 percent to 2.17 million MT in copra terms. This would be just about a quarter of last year's growth rate of 14.6 percent.

The slower growth projection was based on the lower than normal rainfall levels in some parts of the country.

Still, the group believed that actual coconut production tended to be on the higher side considering that in 2005, an unusual wet period when estimates showed a "marginal decline."

"Production in areas anticipated to register growth (in 2005) was underestimated, which more than compensated for the predicted shortfall in Tabaco and Central Visayas as well as Surigao and Western Mindanao," the report said.

For 2006, coconut oil exports is seen to grow by about 2.7 percent to 1.13 million MT from 1.1 million MT.

This means a significant slowdown for the country's best performing export, which grew 14.9 percent between 2004 and 2005.

The bulk of the country's exports of coconut is used in making lubricants for aircraft, cosmetics, natural detergents.

The country's major markets for coconut oil are the United States, Europe, Korea, Malaysia and Japan.

### GOINGS-ON

#### Eco-Minds' special award

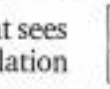
THE ECO-MINDS FORUM, AN NGO PROMOTING the Philippines and Dubai, received a special award for outstanding and unusual communications in the Bayer Award for Excellence in Communications, held recently at Leverkusen, Germany.

The annual global award honors outstanding advertising campaigns, press activities and internal communications of Bayer subsidiaries. Bayer executive communications head for South East Asia Dorothy Gary, a Filipina who headed the Eco-Minds program, was the lone Asian recipient of the award.

#### '06 Honda Civic is top pick

THE 2006 HONDA Civic bagged the insurance industry watchdog Highway Safety's "Top Safety Pick—Gold" award, after earning "Good" ratings in frontal, side-impact and rear crash tests and head restraints.

The 2006 Civic is the only small car and one of only five vehicles to earn this designation from the IIHS. "Top Safety Pick—Gold" award combines crash results achieved from frontal offset 40 mph, side-impact and rear crash tests with IIHS seat measurements for the head restraints. A safeguard "Good" in all three safeguards is required to earn "Top Safety Pick—Gold" status.

So, you heard of the unprecedented success of the NO DEVELOPER

**Build To Own System**

that brings down condo price lower by as much as **40%**

**NOW** is the chance to be part of it!

Don't be a **"mediocre broker"** pushing without knowing what you're selling.

Aim to bring **opportunity and transparent** information to the homebuying public.

**BE A PROFESSIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANT!**

Attend a **free** symposium to be conducted by

**Arch. Gilbert C. Yu**

Innovator of Build To Own system

on a first-come, first-served basis.
For early registration and inquiry please contact Ms. Nanny Eugenio, Head of Client Development
**8167683 to 84 / 09178583436**

Architects + Engineers
Project Development Consultants
Real Estate Brokers/Appraisers
Facilities Management



# Plans to spend ahead of time seen to open Pandora's Box

## Budget deficit, tax revenues to determine credit-rating trend

By Doris C. Dumlao

INVESTMENT BANK UBS AG said the government against pump-priming, believing that aggressive capital spending ahead of the actual one in revenue may open up a Pandora's Box.

"While we continue to believe that the core revenue from the implementation of the expanded value added tax is forthcoming, plans to front-load spending may still affect an overall loss of investors' confidence," said Christie Antic, UBS senior economist for Southeast Asia.

Antic, flush from her visit to Manila, said in a Feb. 17 commentary that the budget deficit and, particularly, the tax revenue data are the areas closely watched by the country's investor community, which continue to be cautious about the country.

"We feel somewhat more cautious about the 2006 deficit target [though we are the broad]," Antic said. "The possibility of a higher budget deficit for the first quarter of 2006 remains [and your risks confusing market watchers as a time when the nation focus is on the fiscal numbers].

"Besides, front-loading hears the risk that it cannot be cut back should tax revenue come in below target."

The government expects the VAT to pick up the tax-to-GDP ratio by 1.3 percent of GDP, while administrative measures are aimed to add another 0.4 percentage point, bringing up the ratio to 14.6 percent this year from last year's 12.7 percent last year.

"Our own estimate is more conservative and calls for a tax-to-GDP ratio of 14 percent only," Antic said. "However, our missed this as he either by higher tax-to-revenue."

The government has vowed to increase revenue collection efforts to achieve a GDP growth target of at least 5.7 this year while keeping the budget deficit within the target of P125 billion or 2.1 percent of GDP.

Sustaining the deficit reduction area further would be "entirely contingent on the VAT being successful, as there is no significant other tax revenue legislation planned at this stage," Antic said.

Finance Secretary said UBS had not changed its views regarding the success of VAT.

As bulk of the revenue would stem from the hike in the VAT rate rather than the introduction of a new tax, Antic said collection efficiency should meet the 15 percent target rate.

For investors tracking the success of VAT, Antic said additional revenues would be captured not only by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (P47.8 billion) but also by the Bureau of Customs (P27.3 billion).

London-based FBOR Ratings earlier upgraded its outlook on Philippine sovereign credit to "stable" from "negative," the second global rating agency after Standard & Poor's, to recognize the government's improving cash budget position.

But while noting that short-term fiscal prospects had improved, from the moment of lingering challenges.

"Even with the VAT in place, government revenue, relative to GDP, is the second-lowest of all rated sovereigns, and it is not yet certain how or whether it will increase to meet mounting spending pressures, which we believe to be forthcoming," Fitch analyst James McCormack said. "A more significant fiscal adjustment than that undertaken to date will be required to avoid a recurrence of downward pressure on the sovereign rating."

# RP urged to issue domestic dollar bonds

By Michelle V. Ramos

WITH THE LOCAL MARKET AWASH in dollars, the national government has been urged to issue dollar-denominated bonds domestically, instead of abroad, to ease the remainder of its borrowing requirements for this year.

Allan Rey Jose Salcedo, who also serves as economic adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the government should take advantage of the huge volume of dollars that are now in the domestic market by borrowing locally.

"There are too many dollars here, so we can buy dollars domestically," Salcedo said at the sidelines of the "Economic Review and Outlook for 2006" organized by the Management Association of the Philippines last Friday. "Dong so (would help save on borrowing cost."

The government still needs to source close to $1 billion to complete its foreign financing requirement for 2006.

Under the government's fiscal program for this year, it should borrow an estimated $3.1 billion to service maturing foreign debt. Last January, it already sold $2.2 billion worth of dollar-and-euro-denominated bonds. It now needs to borrow only a little more $900 million to complete its financing requirement.

Salcedo said that by raising its dollar requirement domestically, the government would save a significant amount in interest rates.

He said another option was to borrow more, by increasing the volume of Treasury bills and bonds being issued by the government, and then use the proceeds to buy dollars from the domestic market.

The surge in dollar inflows is largely attributed to the increase in remittances from Filipinos overseas.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier reported that OFW remittances last year hit an all-time high of $10.7 billion.

The government said the increase in OFW remittances was due to the higher number of Filipinos being deployed abroad, and to the higher-paying jobs that have opened to Filipinos.

Higher portfolio investments are also credited with helping bring in more dollars to the country.

Net portfolio investments jumped to nearly $2 billion in the first 11 months of 2005 from only less than $300 million at the same period of 2004, latest data said.

The economic advisers said the increase in portfolio investments was a result of the government's improving fiscal condition.

The budget deficit was kept at P146.5 billion last year, way below the target of P150 billion.

Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**
Roxas Boulevard Corner Valley Avenue, S. Street
Manila 1004

**AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT DATED OCTOBER 13, 2000 DEFINING THE GUIDELINES ON TRANSFERABILITY OF TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES ISSUED UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 226, THE OMNIBUS INVESTMENT CODE**

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) dated October 13, 2000 executed by and between the Board of Investments (BOI) and the Department of Finance (DOF) in compliance with the provision of Article 41 of Executive Order No. 226 (E.O. 226) regarding the transferability of tax credit certificates (TCCs) issued under the said E.O., the following additional guidelines are hereby adopted:

1. Transfers by companies belonging to a domestic market oriented industry:

Transferors belonging to an industry same sized BOI tax exempted to an a manner shall be allowed to transfer their outstanding TCCs to any BOI-registered beneficiary without requiring them to comply with the conditions imposed under Section 12, 13, and 14 of the preceding MOA, provided that the type of transfer shall be allowed only once every three (3) years from the date the last transfer to BOI or the industry same is in existence, without prejudice to renewal thereof upon approval by the Executive Committee."

2. Section 3 of the MOA is hereby amended to include the following paragraph:

"Henceforth, in order to simplify the administrative process in executing the existing MOA, and since BOI and DOF are well represented in the Committee's Executive Committee, any amendment to the preceding terms including extension of the validity of the MOA may be approved by the Committee, subject to the concurrence of the Secretary of Finance, by the Center's Executive Committee, which resolution shall be its implementation without the need for another MOA between BOI and DOF, subject to compliance with the provisions of EO 226 and with the required administrative procedures under the Administrative Code.

| BOARD OF INVESTMENTS | DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE |
|---|---|
| (Sgd.) **ELMER C. HERNANDEZ** | (Sgd.) **DAGOHOY A. MONDEJAR, JR** |
| Undersecretary | Undersecretary |

Signed in the presence of:

| | |
|---|---|
| (Sgd.) **CYRUS V. LEANO** | (Sgd.) **ERNESTO G. RAMOS** |
| Executive Director | Executive Director |
| Board of Investments | DOF-CENTER |

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION ) S.S.
CITY OF MANILA )

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 15th day of February 2006, in the City of Manila, affiants exhibited to me their Community Tax Certificates as follows:

| NAMES | CTC Number | ISSUED AT | ISSUED ON |
|---|---|---|---|
| Elmer C. Hernandez | 12196809 | Mandaluyong, Bulacan | 11-Jan-06 |
| Dagohoy A. Mondejar, Jr. | 22179828 | Makati City | 23-Jan-06 |

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal on the day, date and place above written.

Doc. No. 136
Page No. 28
Book No. X
Series of 2006

(Sgd.) **ATTY. GERARDO S. ORTIZ JR.**
NOTARY PUBLIC
PTR. 0178888 - 1-3-06
IBP No. 696121 - 2006
Roll of Attorneys No. 41
Valid until December 31, 2006

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.

**INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID**

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC., Victorias City, Negros Occidental wishes to invite interested bidders/contractors to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply of labor, materials, tools/equipment, and consumable materials for the Off-Season Repair (OSR) of the following boilers:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Yoshimine Boiler | JPBO11274 | 6. Riley Boiler #2 | JPBO11284 |
| 2. | ITA Boiler #1 | JPBO11284 | 6. Riley Boiler #3 | JPBO11284 |
| 3. | ITA Boiler #2 | JPBO11284 | 7. Riley Boiler #4 | JPBO11284 |
| 4. | Riley Boiler #1 | JPBO11224 | | |

Interested bidders must submit the following requirements:

- VMC accreditation papers for those who are not yet accredited
- Registered and in good standing with SEC or DTI
- Certificate of Registration from BIR
- Certificate of membership from SSS, Philhealth, HDMF, PAG-IBIG, etc.
- Certificate from the Department of Labor and Employment
- Has a good track records and satisfactory performances as attested by at least three (3) clients
- Latest audited Financial Statements stamped by BIR and certified by a Certified Public Accountant

Pre-qualification and bidding forms are available at the ACCI Office, IBC Mitala and at the VMC Makati Office during office hours from **February 20 to March 3, 2006**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification papers is on **March 10, 2006**. The pre-bid conference for qualified bidders is on **March 17, 2006, 2:30 P.M.** at the **HRD Conference Room, VMC Mitala, Victorias City, Negros Occidental.** The bidding date will be announced thereafter. Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price in the form of certified/manager's check payable to Victorias Milling Company, Inc.

For further inquiries, please contact **Messrs. Carlos S. Quiatchon, Dan C. Labrador and Edwin S. Fagunoy** or VMC Mitala at telephone numbers **(034) 399-3888 to 97** and locals **2181 and 2366**, and **Mr. Ernesto "Tata" Olign** at VMC Makati Office at telephone numbers **(02)899-6405** and **(02)890-7951**, or visit our website www.victoriasmilling.com and e-mail us at mis@victoriasmilling.com.

Victorias Milling Company, Inc., reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Company. The Company assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **TERESITA V. ILAGAN**
Chairperson, Senior Bidding Committee

**Marketing Institute of the Philippines**
**The Education and Training Arm of the**
**PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION**

presents a seminar on:

**THE MARKETING A TO Z**
**March 3, 2006; 8:00AM – 6:00 PM**
**Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati**

This seminar helps clear the confusion and perhaps in marketing. Thus, it aims to give marketing executives the essential concepts and tools needed to design exceptional marketing programs and effectively function as marketing practitioners.

**Target Participants**

This seminar is specifically designed for those who may already be doing a marketing management function but whose academic preparation is not marketing. They can be entrepreneurs, front line, mid-and upper-level managers in brand management, sales customer solutions, advertising promotions media and public relations.

**Seminar Objectives**

At the end of this seminar on The Marketing A to Z, participants will know the key marketing concepts like the macro and micro forces of marketing, 4P's (product, place, price and promotion), consumer behavior and target marketing.

**Methodology**

Lectures, exercises, and in-class application projects relate specifically to the workplace hence participants can immediately apply new concepts and skills. Become a speakers are multi-awarded marketing practitioners who will share their experiences and insights about the Basics of Marketing.

**SEMINAR PROGRAM**

**March 3, 2006 (Friday)**
**Introductory Session – 8:00AM – 8:00AM**
**Basic Business and Marketing Concepts**
Session Chair: Ms. Marivic Ar-Ao
Professor, San Beda College

**Session 1 – 8:00AM – 10:00AM**
**The Enigma of Marketing Mix in Today's Business Environment: Hit or Miss!**
Speaker: Ms. Marivic Ar-Ao

**Session 2 – 10:00AM – 11:00AM**
**Consumer Analysis : Its Effect to Business Strategy**
Speaker: Mr. Ricardo de Vera
President, Pinpoint Direct Marketing

**Session 3 – 11:00AM – 12:00NOON**
**Market Segmentation, Targeting and Positioning: Crucial Effect to Business Strategy**
Speaker: Ms. Ma. Teresa Villanueva
Senior Executive Officer, Investor Bank

**12:00NOON – 1:00PM – LUNCH**

**Session 4 – 1:00PM – 2:00PM**
**Connecting with your Consumer through Effective Communication**
Speaker: Vlad

**Session 5 – 2:00PM – 3:00PM**
**Mapping the Winning Strategies for Tougher Times**
Speaker: Ms. Vivien Fourtes
VP for Communication, Earth & Style Corporation

**3:00PM – 4:00PM – WORKSHOP**

**4:00PM – 6:00PM – PRESENTATION OF CASES/SUMMARY/AN**

**Registration Fees**
PMA Member - Php1,500.00
Non-PMA Member - Php1,500.00

For inquiries please call the Philippine Marketing Association Secretariat at tel. Nos. 636-1451, 818-2722/818-4980; look for Ms. Lydia Martinez or e-mail marineslydia@yahoo.com, pbdevelopingphil@hotmail.com

the Hive
Professional AV
Get the BEST Deals on
Multimedia Projector
Plasma Monitor
LCD TV
Home Theater
AV System Integration
Now Open @
People Support Center
Unit-C People Support Center
Amorsolo St. Makati City
Tel. Nos. 7511351, 7511357, 7511363, 7511367

Lenovo recommends Windows® XP Professional.
intel
Pentium 4
THE NEW E SERIES FOR SMALL BUSINESS.
REAL THINKCENTRE. UNREAL PRICE.
PHP43,795
PHP47,295
PHP52,495
With the Think Express Program, ThinkCentre desktops are preconfigured with your business and your budget in mind.
Contact our authorised resellers today.
lenovo.

# Deficit seen to reach ₱147.4B in 2006

## Mining industry expects $347M in fresh infusion

By Christine A. Saplacan

FOREIGN AND LOCAL MINING COMPANIES this year are expected to infuse $347 million in fresh investments, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

The fresh investments will fund new mining projects and expansion activities to be undertaken by medium- and large-scale mining companies this year.

"This year's programmed investments, once realized, will double the actual investments made in 2005," the bureau's Mining Economics Division said in its most recent report.

Last year's investments amounted to $137 million.

This year's investments will go to 22 priority projects in different mining ventures, said Mining Economics Division head Benjamin de Vera.

Application filings, which has taken over the Tampakan Mining Project in Surigao, would inflate P39 billion to complete its project this year.

Atlas Consolidated Inc. subsidiary Carmen Copper Corp. is set to invest $85 million to rehabilitate its Toledo Copper project in Cebu.

Australasian Philippines Mining Inc. will invest $56.12 million in its Dinkidi Copper-Gold project.

In 2004, the Chamber of Mines projected that investments in the country's mining sector could reach about $6 billion in $7 billion over the next 10 years.

## *Investors on the lookout for Japanese speakers*

By Joan Escandor,
PDI Central Luzon Bureau

PEL CARMONA (GIL—JAPANESE investors are on the lookout for workers fluent in Japanese. This development has prompted the provincial government to fund Japanese language intervention programs.

Shigeo Tadaoka, Fujitsu Philippines Inc. chair, said that the economy of the Carmelites for government to reach Japanese to workers in the province for less, coupled with the development of infrastructure facilities here, had succeeded in attracting Japanese investors to the province.

A 16-man delegation from Japan attended the graduation of the first batch of workers held here at the Capitol Convention Center on Jan. 27.

Of the graduates, 116 completed levels 4 and 3 Hiragga language courses.

Tadaoka said that in the short term, his company was interested in recruiting Japanese-literate workers who had completed a four-level Hiragga course in the Information Technology Center of the Carmarines for provincial government.

He said the Japanese language program of the Carmelites for government had created a stir among Japanese companies after the news was published in a Japanese publication.

Tadaoka said it would become a basic requirement for Japanese companies to recruit workers proficient in Japanese because he said it would increase productivity.

He said Fujitsu prefers Japanese Filipino workers because the transaction and translation of its operations are all in Japanese—even if the software are written in English.

Fujitsu at the Gil Japanese compound that housed consuls of Japan in PAU. Since then, it has invested a total of $800 million in the Philippines.

Tadaoka said that the establishment of a link between the provincial government and Japanese companies has opened job opportunities for Carmelites that's Japanese literate workers.

Gov. Lito Raymund Villafuerte said that the provincial government has expanded its language courses training to include cultural orientation to help workers adjust easily to the Japanese culture. Special forms is given to nurses, physical therapists and caregivers bound for Japan.

The governor said the provincial government is now ready to negotiate projects to be funded by the province's first infrastructure initiative (IP) park.

Villafuerte said the 2,000-seat call center facility in the first, fourteen IT park is now ready for operations, while the assembly line facilities are in the installation and expected to be completed in 2007.

Masanobu Baba, vice president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, said that his group is educating the tourists and businessmen, especially the Cantonese group of islets.

He said that some of the area have the best white sand beaches and coves in the Asia-Pacific region.

Baba, who represents Japan Airlines, is urging the Carmelites for government to improve its airport facility to accommodate jumbo jets that can fly directly to the province from Japan.

## Congress doubts Customs, BIR will meet their targets

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET deficit is seen to rise to P147.4 billion this year, missing its official target by a wide mark, because of the expected slowdown in the economy that may affect tax collections.

According to the projection of the Congressional Planning and Budget Department (CPBD), the economic research arm of the House of Representatives, it would be difficult for the customs and internal revenue bureaus to meet their revenue collection goals for the year.

The CPBD's deficit forecast is 8.6 percent higher than last year's deficit of P135.8.3 billion, and 10 percent higher than the official ceiling of P134.5 billion set by the executive branch for 2006.

The CPBD recently research body said collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) might only reach P686.5 billion, or 7 percent lower than its goal of P675.4 billion. The Bureau of Customs is expected to collect P182.9 billion – 7 percent lower than its P196 billion target.

But the Bureau of the Treasury remains upbeat on the prospects of the fiscal sector, citing the decline in excess taxes refunds, in turn, is expected to reduce the government's borrowing need.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said it has the government could even improve its P125 billion budget surplus.

But the CPBD said that the BIR and the BOC might not be able to deliver the revenues expected of them due to the expected slowdown in productivity of some industries.

The CPBD's deficit forecast of P147.4 billion is equivalent to 2.4 percent of the estimated gross domestic product for the year. The official deficit to GDP ratio for 2006 is 2.1 percent.

CPBD said the economy, as measured by the GDP, was likely to hit a range of 6.1 and 7.1 percent compared with the official target of 5.7 to 6.7 percent.

## PLDT willing to compromise with Globe on access charges

By Clarissa E. Batino

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEphone Co. (PLDT) is willing to reduce access charges—or the fees that telcos pay one another—but not to the level as cited cited Globe Telecom Inc. has in mind, a senior official said.

PLDT softened its stance after the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) compelled the telcos to work out a compromise on the issue of access charges.

The NTC earlier said that it would treat Globe's complaint against PLDT as an administrative case if the two parties would fail to reach a deal.

A case against PLDT will jeopardize its existing P1B per call prime popular among its 2.1 million landline customers.

PLDT said the company could reduce the interconnection fees from the current rate of 99.4 centavos from landline to mobile, and P3 a minute from mobile to landline and between fixed lines—but the rate would still depend on traffic volumes.

A PLDT official said it would offer volume discounts. The firm has already asked Globe for an acceptable level of volume to which the discounts may be pegged.

What the telco giant will insist, according to an official, is that text or calls to landline must be higher than calls to cellular phones.

Maintenance costs of mobile operators are lower due to higher utilization, unlike fixed lines, which are also more expensive to put up.

Access charges or termination rates are paid by the phone company that makes the call. The rates are determined bilaterally. These fees are included in the telcos' charges that subscribers have to pay.


Canon
Delighting You Always

save as much as PhP 75,000.00* off the price of a Canon imageRUNNER when you trade in your old copier or printer

right move deal #1

right move deal #2

get PhP 5,000.00 in gift certificates when you purchase any Canon imageWARE software

- Reproduce your sensitive documents without compromising security
- Print copies of documents when you need it
- Get the information you need faster and more efficiently
- The quickest way to publish world-class documents

Call us and get the best solution for your needs today!

884-9008 to 10

imageRUNNER

Republic of the Philippines
CEBU PORT AUTHORITY

AN INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Philippine Economic Zone Authority

Security Services Requirement of PEZA

# Pancake House income up 82% in 2005 to ₱34M

By Christine A. Saylo.on

PRIVATELY LISTED BAYFOOD CHAIN Pancake House Inc. (PHI) was expected to have recorded a net income of ₱34 million in 2005, up 82 percent from ₱18.67 million the previous year, according to unaudited reports.

The reports showed that PHI's flagship brand Pancake House, and Dencio's Pochi Specialties Inc. were the main profit drivers last year.

Higher sales posted by Pancake House and Dencio's branches enabled PHI to increase revenues last year by 62 percent to ₱616 million from ₱505 million in 2004.

Integrated Auditors for Strategic Research Sdn.'s Tuan and Hill Bagtas-Tuan said Pancake House earned ₱48 million last year, almost double the ₱25 million recorded in 2004.

Pancake House, which invested in branch network to 18 last year from 14 stores in 2004, grew its revenues by 17.7% percent to ₱498 million from ₱423 million the previous year.

System sales for Pancake House likewise grew to ₱692 million from ₱560 million during the period as a result of the ongoing store network expansion.

System sales reflect the combined sales of both company-owned and franchised stores.

PHI, which also operates Temozoli Sea Group Inc., also posted higher earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization in 2005 of ₱ 137.3 million from ₱86.6 million the previous year.

According to Unionpoint, PHI will have to work hard in order to meet Dencio's client of more than $1 in profitability.

Dencio's ended 2005 with 21 stores, which will grow to about 26 stores this year, according to the company's preliminary report to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

PHI took over Dencio's in September 2004.

PHI's financial performance is expected to improve further with the recent addition of Tutok Bay to its portfolio.

PHI now controls 76 percent of Tutok Bay.

Optimistic on the growth of fast casual restaurants in the Philippines, PHI has committed to put up more outlets in the coming years.

The group is expected to end 2006 with a branch network of 126 stores, 74 of which would be Pancake House, 30, Dencio's, and the remaining 22, Tutok Bay.

**TAHANAN FOR SALE.** Rising Sun Farm/Fishpond Resort owned by Dr. Rogelio Bacgao at Sitio Cauan, Poblacion West Tabuk, Kalinga, with scenic animals and fishes. Terraces, which are well-anchored to Kalinga, call for ₱4,000 each.

ITO Group presents its 9th seminar on the
MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION OUTSOURCING BUSINESS

Learn How to do Business in a BILLION DOLLAR Industry!

Over 300 entrepreneurs trained! See what some of them have to say:

"The seminar showed me that there was more than just transcription in the horizon. There was more to this industry than I expected." - J. Sinon

"Extremely informative. The speakers showed a very practical and high degree of competence." - M. Go

"The panel speakers from the US gave an eye opening perspective. I saw the real picture of transcription. Process were simple and straight to the point." - C. Lacdala

"The hands on exercises in the lab rooms is my favorite part. I thought it was just typing." - A. Tamayo

"What I liked the most about the program are the presenters. Very informative, positive, and helpful with all the questions." - F. Reyno

SEMINAR TOPICS

- Introduction to Medical Transcription (MT)
- Offshore MT Industry and Market Assessment
- MT Industry in the Philippines—An Outlook
- HIPAA Compliance & General Medtranspar Issues
- TAQP Technology
- Quality and Productivity
- Process and Delivery
- Resource Requirements
- Manpower / HR Challenges that Face MTSOs
- Financial Management for Local MT Production

SEMINAR ORGANIZERS — ITO Group (IT Outsourcing, Inc., MTA Academy Inc., Worldgate, Inc.)

- The largest award winning BT Education network
- Most widespread MT support services
- Most comprehensive technology vendor

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This 3-day seminar is designed for entrepreneurs and professionals who are interested in setting up their own Medical Transcription outsourcing business.

Date: March 9 to 11, 2006, Thursday to Saturday from 9AM to 5PM
Learning investment: REGULAR RATE – Php 20,000 per person
EARLY BIRD - Php 20,000 to those who reserve on or before March 1
(inclusive of food, beverages and handouts)
Venue: MTC ACADEMY GF Urban Building, 495 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

Download Registration Form at www.mtcacademy.com | Email us: seminar@mtcacademy.com or simply give us a call at 899-MTCA (6822)

## EXPORT BANK LOSES CASE

In a landmark decision penned by the Hon. Judge IRENE H. DY-SANTIAGO of Makati RTC Branch 64, the EXPORT & INDUSTRY BANK (EIB) lost the case it filed against DR. FLORANTE L. SONSAT, CEO of MOMBACO Import Co., Inc., who was charged of seven (7) counts of ESTAFA for violation of the Trust Receipt Law.

In year 2000, Mombaco obtained an Omnibus Line from EIB which included a line for Import Letters of Credit and Trust Receipts. Using this line, it was able to import animal health products from March to October 2000. The Asian Financial Crisis back in 1997 negatively affected the economies of Asia and Mombaco was one of those companies severely affected. Being heavy in dependent on importations, Mombaco's business failed when the interest rates abruptly jumped from 12% to 41% a hike that purportedly dropped from ₱28 to ₱42 in the dollar.

On March 27, 2001, the Office of the City Prosecutor of Makati City through the assistant City Prosecutor, Fiscal DELIA R. LOPEZ, found probable cause to indict respondent SONSAT in court for seven (7) counts of ESTAFA under Article 315, paragraph 1(b) of the Revised Penal Code, in relation to PD 115.

After nearly 5 years of litigation, and based on the records shown to the Honorable Court, the bank failed to establish the basic elements of ESTAFA for they filed against respondent FLORANTE L. SONSAT. The court said: "In determining whether the accused violated the provisions of the Trust Receipts Law, reference should be made to the enhancement of the elements of ESTAFA under Article 315, paragraph 1 (b) of the RPC. In the case at bar, an element of crime is lacking which is the misappropriation or damage or prejudice to another."

The court noted that the accused Mombaco is a long-time client of the bank, which was adequate reason why the latter granted Mombaco an Omnibus Line. The loan was secured by real estate mortgage over two parcels of land. The Trust Receipts executed by the accused in behalf of Mombaco were not only secured by the goods imported by virtue of the trust receipts, but also by the real estate mortgage executed by Mombaco in favor of EIB.

When Mombaco defaulted, the court noted that: "in fact, EIB had already foreclosed the real estate mortgage" and the titles to the two parcels of land are now in the name of the bank. "Therefore, no prejudice could have been suffered by the bank." The Court further noted that there was admission from the accused that his company received and sold all the products covered by the trust receipts but did not remit the proceeds of the sale due to the fact that the fair value of the imported goods were more than adequately covered by collaterals. The accused told the court: "our collateral is sufficient to cover my obligations."

Export & Industry Bank granted MOMBACO and SONSAT 11.2M for P40 million, secured by real estate mortgage over two parcels of land with a FMV, stated value of P400 million, which EIB appraised at P49 million. The bank appraisals only P31.74 million. This fact did not escape the attention of the court when it said: "Moreover, the failure on the part of MOMBACO to pay its obligations under its trust receipt obligation is not intentional and willful because these were brought about by the economic hardships which the company suffered. The fact of non-payment was never denied by the accused. The accused himself testified that he has even exhausted the credit line with EIB. However, the bank failed to release the additional loan application of Mombaco, which it could have used to finance its importation and business operation. This aggravated the already sad financial plight of MOMBACO."

In its Decision, the Court said if "creditor insists that once in a while, a business suffers severe reverses and Mombaco is not an exception. It would therefore be unjust to equate the failure of the accused to pay with intent to defraud." It also found that Mombaco even made partial payments on the trust receipts, aside from the marginal deposits.

The Court found that the prosecution failed to prove the guilt of the accused FONSAT, and thus, "the accused is acquitted in Criminal Cases No. 01-167638 to 167643, (00)-63-1081 to 1083, 63-1085 and 63-1086 for violation of Article 315 par 1(b) of the Revised Penal Code in connection with Section 1(c) of PD 115 or Trust Receipt Law." DR. FLORANTE L. SONSAT can be accessed through his email (momsonsat@yahoo.com) for any information pertaining to the case. He is there no filing a damage suit against EIB.

HP Quality only in Genuine HP Parts

When it comes to maintaining HP machines, you can't separate them from HP Original Parts. Because at HP, we only use components that have undergone rigorous research and development to ensure that HP products work at their best, all the time. So if it's reliability and peace of mind you're after, trust only HP Original Parts for your HP machines.

For dealership inquiries of genuine HP parts contact
WSI Technical Center
HP Master Parts Reseller
Authorized Reseller of Genuine HP Parts

it's our business to make your business grow
sales@wsiphil.com.ph +63 2 810.9301 +63 2 813.7666

# INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

# Calls made through cellular, wi-fi convergence

By Leo Magno

BARCELONA, SPAIN—THE EMERGENCE of VoIP (voice over Internet Protocol) as an alternative to traditional phone networks has long been discussed, but at the 3GSM World Congress held here, a compromise has been struck between the cellular network and the Internet.

Heard has been spreading that wireless voice calls may in the future, be routed through Internet traffic instead of the cellular network. Through wireless local area networks (WLANS) or wi-fi, people are able to make calls via their computers. But since you cannot carry your PC around the office, or in your room unless you want to roast, wouldn't it be good to make VoIP calls using a mobile phone?

Imagine you're in a mall or at home with a wi-fi connection. You can use the hybrid phone to make calls using Wifi. Then, when you move outside the wireless range, the call would be handed over, without dropping, to the GSM network used by your cellphone.

The cell-over-wanted drop-channel calls when you do not pay per-minute airtime while in range of the wi-fi access network, we are assuming, is already paid for). You would only pay for the minutes used when you leave out of range of the wi-fi hotspot. This increases mobile service availability, decreases subscriber call cost and, for the operator, decreases the cost related to network deployment.

Hybrid or converged devices like the Nokia E50 shows a complement my way of using VoIP and cellular, whereas Nokia's VoIP was specific related to both cellular and landline. Here, we see the cellular side and the Internet side meshed together into a core network.

In the near-end, you'd have an expanded range of mobility, according to Ari Oksanen, executive vice president and general manager for mobile phones at Nokia.

"You can use wi-fi where the GSM signal is weak because only wifi access point is here station and as a connecting factor, as if it were a switch," he said.

If the user already has access to a wi-fi network at home or outside, wi-fi is used to include voice calls, bringing down the total call cost and optimizing the use of the hotspots.

On the operator end, said Oksanen, operators can introduce new service plans with competitive prices when the phone is used at home or at wi-fi hotspots.

"This means less cost and less congestion for operators," said Oksanen, as the traffic is accessed through the Internet instead of through the cellular network.

This is made possible by Nokia's Unified Core Network solution for converging Internet and cellular networks, of which Dhia is a key part. UMA (ultra-mobility enabler) the use of broadband and wireless access technologies such as wi-fi to expand mobility for users of voice and data services. It can also be an alternative approach to extending cellular indoor coverage (where signal is weak indoors) and to move users lost by the cellular network back into wi-fi coverage.

In the Philippines, mobile operators Smart Communications and Globe Telecom have both cellular and wireless Internet networks and could theoretically deploy such a converged GSM/wi-fi service.

"This innovation is inevitable. But voice barriers under the most out of them for the benefit of the consumers," said Jesus Cisneros, assistant vice president for public relations at Globe. "Affordability and superior service is also crucial. It should be easy to use."

Ramon Hontiveros, public affairs head of Smart, had the same concerns.

"That will be rolled out in the country but to really catch on, the technology should be easy to use," he said.

And, since wi-fi would soon allow people to use hybrid handsets to make VoIP calls, the "right business model" would help it take hold in the country, Isberto said. He added that domestic operator Wimagic, which has been commercially offering VoIP services via mobile, has not reported significant revenues from the service.

Wimagic is offering mobile calls via its system for $2.4/30 a month.

"How to make money is the issue with VoIP," said Isberto.

Smart currently offers its new wi-fi service with Smart PitO, coupled with broadband wireless networks through Mabuhay Telecom and the Internet service of its parent company, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Globe, on the other hand, offers Internet and data services via GlobeQuad (GlobeQuad Send Area Business and Dual hybrid GSM/wi-fi phones and converged services are pending.

"We think this is good because it will expand the base of those who can use VoIP over wi-fi," said Romero.

But will the number of hotspots in the Philippines and the technology itself become an issue, bearing in mind that wi-fi was once designed to enjoy voice?

"The technology will not be an issue," Romero said. "If they launch that phone, operators should provide the services around it. The services should leverage on the technology."

Romero added that such a technology may actually spur the growth of wi-fi in the country.

"Wi-fi is now used mainly for browsing," he said. "With voice, it will leverage the usage and the number of hotspots."

In Globe looking at deploying such converged services?

"Definitely we will introduce it when it comes to the market," Romero said.

Elsewhere, European operator Orange has announced that it will be using the Nokia E62i to offer a converged GSM/wi-fi service.

With a report from Erwin C. Oliva

## Mobile e-mail race heats up

By Leo Magno

BARCELONA, SPAIN—THE RACE FOR technology companies to push e-mail to your cell phones and other mobile devices took a hot turn here at the 3GSM World Congress, with Research In Motion Corp., Nokia and Research in Motion (RIM) all wanting to deliver e-mail wherever you go.

Software giant Microsoft said it would provide solutions to deliver e-mail via Direct Push through Windows Mobile 5.0 and Windows Server. Nokia unveiled push e-mail plans after successfully acquiring FrontBridge Corp. for $400 million. RIM,[illegible] to the chief of RIM, is one of the BlackBerry handset makers and the push e-mail revolution but is facing opposition in[illegible] from a patent lawsuit filed against it by NTP Inc. The new moves[illegible] and services for the BlackBerry to be[illegible] in the US.

All three companies were in full force here at the 3GSM World Congress, but Microsoft was seen as the dark horse. Being a non-traditional phone company seen as invading the turf of Nokia and BlackBerry.

Nokia and BlackBerry were unfazed by Microsoft's announcement that it would dominate the push e-mail market with its more than 100 mobile device partners. Their partners include makers of personal digital assistants aside from traditional cell phones.

"We will immediately start integration of [illegible] into Nokia devices through the Nokia Business Center solution," Jorma Ollila, Nokia general manager for mobile and enterprise solutions, said[illegible]. "By the third quarter, [illegible] will be fully integrated and the brand dissolved."

But Nokia is not limiting its solutions to its own phones.

"[It] is an open system," Ollila said. "We can[illegible] with Microsoft and even[illegible]. It could be on a Nokia platform, but if we push one e-mail to other devices we still win."

Nokia already has a partnership with Research In Motion Ltd. (RIM) to[illegible] BlackBerry through BlackBerry Connect which allows the latter's software to be used in Nokia phones. Ollila said the partnership will not change now affected by the acquisition of FrontBridge.

"If we could get our software into more devices then we could[illegible]," said Chris Preuss, chief operating officer of[illegible], in an interview. "We will support other mobile software platforms. We are already in 35 other non-Nokia platforms. [illegible] won't be reduced on Nokia [phones]."

Meanwhile, RIM said it had contingency plans in case it loses its patent lawsuit in the United States. It said that an alternative technology will continue to make BlackBerry devices[illegible] to use the injunction[illegible] through.

"Remember the one will affect US subscribers, not the entire market," said Ben Dawson, Europe product manager for BlackBerry, in an interview. "There will be lots of competitors out there including Microsoft, but we already have a big brand and a marketing we pioneered the industry. At the same time we are partners of Nokia and Sony Ericsson through BlackBerry Connect so we are not limited to our hardware."

Gruenau said RIM and Microsoft would target the high end of the market while Nokia would go from the entry-level to sophisticated "smart phones."

In separate interviews, Stevens and Gruenau both said that their advantage lies on having push e-mail software based on an open platform, and that Microsoft will reportedly offer its Direct Push solution to devices running on Windows Mobile. RIM and Nokia, on the other hand, are working to make their push e-mail available to devices running on Symbian, Palm, Windows Mobile and other platforms.

Earn 8.0% TAX-FREE interest!
Open a 5-year PSBank Prime Time Deposit now!
• Affordable at PhP50,000.
• Guaranteed fixed rate for 5 years.
• Monthly payout of interest earnings.
Get it now at any PSBank branch.
PSBank Prime Time Deposit

# BUSINESS

## RP the world's best in IT

### McKinsey says Philippines low in cost, high in quality

By Reuard W. Domingo

THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED service sector in the Philippines is the best in the world in terms of cost and quality of labor, but it needs to improve on international perception issues regarding the local market, according to global research and consultancy firm McKinsey.

Christopher Bednarz, president and chief executive of McKinsey Philippines, said in a report presented during the e-Services Philippines 2005 held last week that the country was clearly in a "good" position, but could become "great."

McKinsey data showed that the labor cost per hour in the Philippines was just 12 percent of what a BPO operator would spend in the United States, better than India's 13 percent.

As for the suitability of job applicants on the requirements of a firm, the Philippines batted closer from Russia-China and India, the data showed.

Further, the Philippines also excels in terms of the number of available workers as a percentage of total population as well as infrastructure related to information technology, real estate and transportation.

Still, Bednarz said the country would still capture an "unfair share" of the global market if it cannot up with a clear strategy and program to address its weaknesses.

Bednarz recommended that the country focus on the non-voice sector or services other than call centers; to continue to attract high-profile investors; and enhance the suitability of the labor supply through investments in language education and development of skilled managers.

## BSP tightens rules on banks linked to pre-need firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY BOARD OF THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has approved tighter rules on banks acting as trustees of affiliate pre-need companies.

BSP chief legal counsel Francis Dungo said in a briefing that the new rules likewise limited the investments that trustee banks could choose from.

Trustee banks affected by the new regulation would be given one year to clean up investments that do not meet the new standards set by the BSP, Dungo added.

The new regulations require trustee banks that manage assets of affiliate firms to treat those accounts as exposure to Dosri (directors, officers, stockholders and related interests).

Among others, the General Banking Law limits banks' Dosri exposure to 15 percent of total loan portfolio.

Before the rules were issued, the BSP had no guidelines covering banks acting as trustees of related firms.

There are at least four banks with affiliate pre-need firms: Bank of the Philippine Islands-Ortigas Plaza Inc.), Philam Savings (Philam Plans), Union of Coconut Planters Bank (Cocoplans Inc.) and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (Pacific Plans).

The BSP also narrowed down the type of investments trustee banks could invest in. Among these are Philippine government securities, triple-A debt papers or notes guaranteed by triple-A rated issuers or other risk free investments.

Meanwhile, Insurance Commissioner Evangelina Escobillo said the IC was willing to take the pre-need sector under its wings if mandated to do so.

"There are certain similarities with insurance products and some are even affiliated with insurance firms," she said.

## Napocor readies Semirara rehab program

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH MORE THAN 12 PERCENT OF THE OIL spill affected areas in Semirara Island cleaned up, the state-run National Power Corp. has come up with a rehabilitation plan involving the reforestation of affected mangrove areas and provision of alternative livelihood for the residents.

The state firm said its rehabilitation plan is aimed at sustainability and aimed to provide long-term benefits to the island's residents.

Safety audits would also be conducted on Napocor's barges, with emphasis on oil spill control, to prevent a repeat of the oil spill that contaminated areas surrounding the island.

Further research and studies on the behavior and biodegradation of spilled oil, as well as a baseline productivity valuation of Philippine mangroves and other marine ecosystems, would also be conducted.

The possibility and cost-efficiency of local materials for absorbency used for oil spill cleanup would also be studied.

Meanwhile, personnel from Napocor, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Philippine Coast Guard, as well as residents of Semirara Island coordinated to clean the affected areas.

To date, more than 33 percent of the 132 hectares affected by the oil spill, including the mangrove area, had been cleaned.

Almost 35,000 cubic cut of an estimated 60,000 cubic cut of contaminated debris and material had likewise been collected.

Of the solidified oils, more than 12,000 sacks had been transferred to the designated permanent dumpsite.

Napocor said it was also considering using bioremediation technology, which makes use of various organic materials to break down the spilled oil with no adverse effects on the environment.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Man-made forest eyed as first organic coffee farm B2-2

Corporate Securities Info

Internet fraud B2-5

SM North: Corporate Edsa baby B2-4

BUSINESS Monday

E-mail at business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga Espino

# Revealing coffee industry's secret

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—MOUNTAINA COFFEE CO is a year-old producer of specialty coffee that is arguably the only homegrown distributor of indigenous "Cordillera arabica" bean products.

But the firm plans to stamp its imprint on the country's coffee industry when it throws the full of the trade's most closely guarded secrets.

Alpin Alvaro Camilla II, Mountaina's founder, says the firm is leading a campaign to have the Cordillera arabica bean profiteers, sometimes commercialization and irresponsible production by empowering Ifugao, Kankanaey, Kalinga and Ibagao coffee farmers with new technologies and a brand that adds value to their crops.

"For decades, [top producers of coffee in the Philippines have monopolized the supply of] their best arabica beans which they buy raw from poor farmers in the Cordillera. [This condition thrives] because [farmers] are unaware that their arabica beans have been acknowledged by world experts to [rate at the] best flavors in the world," he says.

"Save the Cordillera Arabica" is not yet a keyword here, although Mountaina is trying to build a brand image by labeling their produce according to their origins—Benguet Bora, Ifugao Shade-Grown Bourbon, Ifugao Limited Blend and Kalinga Dark Roast.

"Our campaign will break the silence about arabica. We will tell the farmers that their crops are worth more than what they now sell for, and we will help them produce better quality beans for a bigger market so they will no longer be the big companies' serfs," he says.

But it's a secret that the industry itself seems to finally unveil.

Early this month, Pedro Juan, co-chair of the National Coffee Development Board alongside Ifugao Coffee & Grains president Nicholas Mayo, led a team of German experts through the lush mountain forest inside the Governia property in Tabiog, Benguet to showcase its coffee plantations as one of the country's "best practices" in organic food production.

Juan, also chief executive officer of the Ifugao Coffee Co., says showing off the forest is stage one of a grand industry plan to harness organic coffee from the Cordillera highlands, by generating a modern and profitable market chain for coffee farmers.

The Ifugao newsletter describes arabica as "the most widely known coffee [that is] considered to be the most aromatic and superior in flavor to the robusta beans," which is more acidic due to its higher caffeine content.

Juan says coffee bean matures under the lens of conditions. The cold climate allows coffee beans to mature gradually, nurtured by high altitudinal humidity, generous sunlight and mountain soil. Most arabica trees here also grow under thick forest cover, which lengthens the maturity period.

Juan says locally

"SAVE the Cordillera Arabica" is the new battle cry of the local coffee industry

ASIAN DRILLING & PUMPS

SERVICES:
- PERCUSSION & ROTARY DRILLING
- WELL REHABILITATION & SUBMERSIBLE PUMP SERVICING
- DEEP WELL SUBMERSIBLE & HORIZONTAL PUMPS: GRUNDFOS, GOULDS, AYWEL, FRANKLIN MOTOR & PRESSURE TANK
- EXPLORATION, DEEP WELLS 3" & 4" DIA WELL CASING UP TO 500 FEET DEPTH

Furniture Transporter. Moving Art Gallery. Family Reunion Place. Theater Props Conveyor. Marriage Proposal Venue. Laundry Basket. Band Equipment Hauler. Gym Locker. Pillow Fight Arena. Golf Cart. Bed and Breakfast. Grocery Cart. Surfboard Storage. Giant Cubbyhole. Star-gazing Location. Phone Booth. Baby Mover. Camping Grounds. Picnic Area. Library. Resthouse. Playground. Lounge. Prayer Room. Salon. Love Nest. Kennel. Lunchroom. School Bus. Spa. Powder Room. Walk-in Closet. Delivery Van. Dining Room. Office. Study. Romantic Getaway.

Because it's a Wagon.

CHEVROLET OPTRA WAGON

Because you deserve more for your Peso Time Deposit.

Maybank

# Man-made forest eyed as first RP organic coffee farm

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUBLAY, BENGUET—SENIOR Bureau Economist, a Spanish Filipino who migrated to this town in 1964, saw the forest for the trees as soon as he set foot on a 64-hectare hill he had bought here.

The hill overlooks vast fruited and fruit-canopy vegetable terraces but almost sees the pine tree canopy that characterized Benguet landscapes during that period.

In Cosmolan, who is known here as "Señor," set his household and his landowner neighbors to work, planting by hand saplings of pine, acacia, mulberry and native arabica coffee trees on every square inch of Cosmolan land, says Mateo Avenido, 58, who was part of Cosmolan's team.

This close look from said 1,000 saplings, denied crops.

The Cosmolan forest will soon take center stage should it receive the country's first certification as an organic coffee farm, courtesy of the German government.

Roland Peetz, a consultant of the Pigtos Coffee Roasters Inc., has used the forest as one of the local industry's "best practices" lessons.

Peetz has lined it up for organic certification by Naturland, a German industry body that supports organic food by providing guarantees seals to industrious organic producers all over Europe.

Peetz and Pedro Aton, Pigtos chief executive officer, toured the forest last month.

Sipping coffee under pine trees, Aton says the mountain hosts specimen of tall, lithe wild fruit trees, Coffea arabica.

Most of those coffee trees in the Cordillera are 30 years old, which testifies to their organic nature, says Peetz. Consumers prefer organic because farmers have spending on chemical fertilizer to make the trees bear fruits.

But getting the farmers to cooperate and building economical and efficient coffee farms is a matter that requires solo models, says Aton.

Cosmolan had always been a community influencer, says Avenido, who is now the forest's caretaker.

Local political rebel environmental churches were not yet pouring. Cosmolan spoke to Mr. Bidol and Barbarian neighbors about "building a forest to keep the whole hill from collapsing," Aton does says.

Throughout the Hollow, Cosmolan had become a businesse cattle, arguing against new programs that threaten the best practices around, says Avenido.

At first glance, he says, "Señor" and have seen from light about the fragility of the community's ecology.

To reach the Cosmolan property, people still need to hike or drive through a not-too-road road, that is painstakingly carved from the bare mountainside after every storm. The forest roots have been sturdy enough to control small creeks that collect near the Cosmolan property and which flow downstream hill.

The coffee, when's the most road is provided, are packaged with packet prices, so the family is at the forefront of a fight to keep water away from the port of Benguet.

Inside the Cosmolan children laugh off a Philippine evening film, which has come to inhabit parents of Tubley villages in a new program, by watching it as a movie.

The author says that organic practices are nearly 20 hectares, and that look great.

Dr. Tayo, one of Cosmolan's daughters, asked scientists to plant 4,000 new coffee trees a week for the whole coverage and staff have to every end of the year.

"It takes me half an child's time and he is responsible for setting three trees of trees," Avenido said.

Keeping with the pine landscape is lifestyle here, Avenido said. Cosmolan using a sustainable management, made of scrap wood, rubber pots and aluminum water pipes, before the trees were crushed.

PETTEI Avenido has been growing coffee since he was a boy

Ipamalas ang world-class mong kakayahan sa pamamagitan ng

NEGOSYO

Admission is free.

*Malaki kaloga ang matibukalang ng Go Negosyo Entrepreneurship Summit and Expo sa mga mala-magiyan o magnalago ang kanilang mga negosyo. Dagat nga noon pa nagkaroon ng gandang Alaang event para matulungan din ako mang sinisimulan pa lang naamin ng aram ko ang Lora's Gifts and Decors. Dalot Political Science and kanyang ringpon ko, 'at sapat ang aking kaalaman mang nag-aangilan ako. Kinailangan lalay naming mag-aaral na mag obserbar at magganda sa that't ibang trade fairs at exhibitions para mapag-aralan ang export industry. Samakat din kami sa dami dating buyers abroad para matagpuan ko. Sa malay, magnoon ding magpasalak sa amin at 'at magkaa ay napalaki din namin ang aming kapital. At mula sa isang maliit na opisina at 2 empleyado, nakapagtayo kami ng at least at show rooms sa New York, Minneapolis at Hong Kong at umabot sa mahigit na 1, 000 ang aming empleyado. Makakatulong talaga!*

**Kung nais ninyo ring maiaman ang inu and outs ng export industry, huliw't magpunta sa Go Negosyo Entrepreneurship Summit and Expo!**

**Entrepreneurship Summit February 23, 2006 • Every Nation Leadership Institute, Fort, Taguig**
**Entrepreneurship Expo February 24-25, 2006 • Market! Market! Trade Halls A & B, Fort, Taguig**

DOV. LUIS RAYMUND VILLAFUERTE, JR. • 2003 Jaycee Senator, Jr. Award Pinoy Entrepreneur Business Leadership (Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry) • 2002 Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) for Entrepreneurship in Exports (Phil. Jaycees) • 2003 Model Young Business Achiever Award (MYBA) for Excellence in International Operations, Ellis Island Business Achievement Award Trust Program

Presented by

Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship

LGD

**DAY 1 (February 23, 2006/ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)**

**DAY 2 (February 24, 2006/ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)**

**DAY 3 (February 25, 2006/ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)**

Call 637-9347 or 631-8101
loc. 7188 / 0920-9269232


## Revealing . . .

A-end page B6-1

grown arabica is also precious because backyard love farms in the Cordillera can only produce 1,725 metric tons. The Philippines lost a year to supply shortfall of 31,000 metric tons, and 96 percent of what is local produced for the market is robusta.

Pigtos has spearheaded a campaign to revive the Philippine Liberica bean, or barako, but since 2004, it had also launched a marketing campaign for organic coffee, according to Tomás Peetz, who manages Cordillera coop-members of the Pigtos Coffee Foundation.

But as their few farms lose Benguet, they were forced to confront some of the past.

As early as the 1970s, big coffee chains and manufacturers collected coffee supplies from rural farmers along the so-called Khumyron Trail, only to close their doors when they failed to supply the firms with beans according to specifications, Castillo says.

The Mountain Trail is a reference to Halsema Highway, which leads to coffee farms in Benguet, Mt. Province and Ifugao. Petes has also been negotiating with coffee farmers in Cabugao.

Castillo says arabica was probably introduced to the region when Spaniards began hunting for gold in Benguet, but coffee never became a traditional crop, and in fact grows only because coffee trees flourish in the mountains.

Government tried to expand this modern big drain. Through special agricultural projects like the Central Cordillera Agricultural Program (Cecap), says Jorge Salinas, a University of the Philippines Baguio political science professor who's written extensively on the local coffee trade.

But bodies-ridges and training to improve management were "imposed, rather than taught to cooperatives," Salinas says, and a supply group that was revived "simply collapsed both technically when no one was looking."

Aton says farmers began to respond to Pigtos efforts it started to buy the crops at market-driven prices.

"Ganyan naman ang Filipino farmers. They need a model... because they always say 'Ok, sir, here's another bright idea. But when they actually see us buying the organically grown coffee... well, [with Peetz] it was more people who have been coming," Aton says.

Pigtos's presence is certain to jumpstart a region-wide organic food consciousness. Businesses buy getting organic certification for Cordillera coffee will accelerate the expansion of modern arabica farms there.

The German Development Service is interested in providing organic certification to merit indigenous Filipino farms here, which use "organic by default," because farmers are unable to invest in chemical fertilizers to coffee trees that previously had environmental issues, said Roland Peetz, a German coffee expert who is helping Pigtos in training local farmers.

Lydia Pinnon pounding dried Arabica coffee beans at Barangay Pitogo, Baguio City. She sells her coffee beans at P70 a kilo.

# Meat, fish processing seminar set

LEARN TO PROCESS MEAT AND FISH ARE ... on Thursa St. University of the Philippines Diliman Quezon City on Feb. 23, 2006 (Saturday) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 982-2010/ 982-4020/ 426-7020/ 981-2000 ext.5114/5115.

FORD CALLS ON
**EXPEDITION AND F-150 OWNERS**

Ford Group Philippines is advising owners of 1994-2002 model year Expedition and F-150s who have not set an appointment for a Field Service Action on the Speed Control Deactivation Switch, to immediately contact any Ford dealer for the replacement of the switch, FREE OF CHARGE.

Customer safety and satisfaction are top priorities at Ford. This Field Service Action assures our customers that we are working overtime to address any vehicle concern to minimize inconvenience and to ensure that you continue to enjoy driving your Ford vehicle.

Our customers may contact their respective Ford Dealer Customer Relations Officer or the Ford Philippines Customer Relations office at (049) 541-5000; (049) 541-5001; (049) 541-5104 for inquiries or more information.

Ford

Walang isa na 'di nangangarap ng magandang kinabukasan para sa kanyang anak. Isang kinabukasang dulot ng pagkakamdang dala ng edukasyon.

Gaya ng iba, hangad din ng Philam Plans ang isang magandang kinabukasan para sa inyong anak. Sa pamamagitan ng Pangako Education Plans na abot kaya at Gold Education Plans na nagbibigay ng pinakamahusay na benepisyong pang-edukasyon, siguradong matutupad na ang pangarap mo para sa kanya.

Ang Philam Plans ay maisip - ito ang mas pinakamalaki at pinaka-liquid na trust fund sa lahat ng pre-need companies sa bansa. Ang Philam Plans ay affiliate ng Philamlife, ang nangungunang insurance company sa bansa at Ang, ang nangungunang international insurance and financial services organization sa buong mundo.

Philam Plans, narag na maasahan, mapagkakatiwalaan at mauunawaan. Kung nag iisa ang ina, nag iisa din ang Philam Plans.

AIG A Member of American International Group, Inc.

PHILAM PLANS

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Privatization and Management Office ("PMO"), through its Bids and Awards Committee ("PMO-BAC"), intends to procure the services of a financial advisor ("FA") in connection with the privatization of the 65% of the shares of stock of Philippine Postal Corp. ("Philpost") under a success fee arrangement.

   The Approved Budget for the Contract ("ABC") is FOUR MILLION PESOS (₱ 4M), to be paid by the PMO and chargeable against the success fee which shall not exceed 75% of the total sales proceeds from the privatization of the 65% shares of stock of Philpost.

   The fees for the FA shall be payable as follows:

| PHASE | DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES | FEES |
|---|---|---|
| Preparation | Preparation of valuation and appraisal report, information memorandum and privatization plan | Not to exceed Four Million Pesos (₱4M) |
| Implementation | Implementation of the privatization plan, as approved by the Privatization Council | Not to exceed 75% of the sales proceeds, less the fee paid for the Valuation Phase |

2. The PMO now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent ("LOIs") from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for Philpost Advisor Services. Interested FAs must submit their LOIs on or before 5:00 p.m. of February 2006 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, to the Bids and Awards Committee, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Bantayan St., Legaspi Village, Makati City and secure the Eligibility Documents and Shortlisting Requirements therefrom for a nonrefundable fee of ₱5,000.00.

   Appropriate fee for eligibility and pre-evaluation on a non-reimbursement basis/fee basis. The last day for submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents and Short Listing Requirements shall be on the date of the Opening of Eligibility Documents on 27 February 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the 8th Floor, 104 Bantayan St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Only those short-listed eligible shall be considered for short listing and only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.

3. The PMO-BAC shall draw up the short list of FAs from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 ("RA 9184") and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A ("IRR-A"). The short list of prospective bidders shall not exceed five (5) FAs. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

   a. 50% — General experience of the FA, considering both the overall experience of the firm and key professional staff, including support staff, emphasizing relevant experience of the principal and key staff from previous employment;
   b. 30% — Privatization experience of the FA;
   c. 20% — Qualifications of personnel who may be assigned to the project;
   d. 20% — Dealings of the FA with the Philippine Government.

   The passing rate to be eligible is 70%.

4. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, bidding for the hiring of an FA will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures. Only bids from short listed FAs will be opened. The process for the eligibility stage is described in the Eligibility Documents to be obtained from the PMO. The contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder, who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The PMO-BAC shall evaluate bids using the **Quality-Cost Based Evaluation** procedure. The bidders and will observe the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders to be obtained from the PMO.

5. Interested FAs may obtain the eligibility and short listing requirements, and the other bidding documents, from the PMO-BAC at the address given below from Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The deadline for submission of bids from the short listed FAs shall be on 10 March 2006, 10:00 a.m.

6. The PMO/PMO-BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any formality in the bid requirements, declare the bidding a failure, annul the bidding process without liability incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and award the contract to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Government.

**BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**
**PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE**
9th Floor, 104 Bantayan Street,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 893-3845 / 893-7086 / 917-1333
Fax No. 893-3290
Website: www.pmo.gov.ph

(Sgd.) CRISANTA S. LEGASPI
Deputy Privatization Officer and
Chairperson, PMO-BAC

---



# Termite control business up

SENTROVIC TERMITE Control Philippines Corp. posted a significant 15 percent growth in sales last year, according to Khalid Ben-Tahir, Sales Manager of Dow AgroSciences. The announcement was made during a recent annual meeting of the authorized operators of Sentrogard System.

The increase is especially noteworthy given that it was established despite difficult economic conditions and steady competition.

The company expanded several successful [illegible] to [illegible] new [illegible] and [illegible] Sentrogard System. First introduced locally in 1999, more than 15,000 properties have been installed with Sentrogard.

The gathering, [illegible] "Fellowship of Pilots," [illegible] the industry's most successful and reliable pest control companies. [illegible] Agro specialties recognized the invaluable contributions of Sentrovic officials like Bro Perdi Bautista, Services Phils., Inc.; Chemtrol, Engineers Inc., Kalvin Bros. Control and General Services Corp.; Ile Ka Di [illegible] Innovations et Inc.; Bros Away Corp.; Bottom Pest Management and General Services Inc.; Topflor Pest Services Inc., and Vivo Pest Inc.

Last year, Sentrovic changed a partnership with drug & Company Inc. to make the revolutionary [illegible] termite available in more farms and property owners in the Philippines. Today from a Clay Center, 3M North has added two more buildings and a new park building.

For more information, visit [illegible] sentrovic.com or call 840.34.74; 824.39.95; 892-1757.

---

Republic of the Philippines
**SENATE**
Pasay City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all [illegible] registered [illegible] to apply for eligibility and to bid on the coming and binding of "SENATE MEMORANDA" with the following specifications:

| DESCRIPTION | QTY. | PROJECT ALLOCATION | NON-REFUNDABLE FEE/PROJECT |
|---|---|---|---|
| SENATE MEMORANDA (13th Congress 2004-2007) | 3,000 sets | Php 180,000.00 | Php 300.00 |
| No. of Pages: 201 including cover<br>Size: 8" x 13" (folded)<br>Stock: 80 lbs. Bookpaper<br>Color: Inside pages in white<br>Binding: Wire-o-sewing<br>Cover: Hardboard<br>Color: 100 lbs. Board with printing of Gold Gilt<br>Process: Silkscreen<br>Delivery: 15 days after receipt of Cover/Materials from the Senate Memorial Project Committee | | | |

The bidding documents shall be available to interested bidder/suppliers at the BAC Secretariat Office, Gm. 407, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from **1:30 PM to 5:00 PM, February 27 to March 3 and March 6-8, 2006** upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above. Liquidated damages (LD) equivalent to one tenth (1/10) of one percent (1%) of the unperformed portion, whichever is higher, for each day of delay shall be imposed on the vendor for failure to deliver on said deadline. **The pre-bidding conference shall be held on March 14, 2006, 10:00 AM** at the Philippine Senate Secretary for Administrative and Financial Services, Rm. 426, 4th Floor, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. **LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

This invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.philgeps.gov.ph, and posted at the 4th Floor Senate bulletin board.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (ms. Rose de Castro).

**THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE AWARDEE REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.**

**FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.**

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARMEL JOSE S. SARAO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

---


PC MAGAZINE PHILIPPINES

# HOW-TO ROADSHOW

**5 seminars for IT managers and owners of small and medium businesses.**

## SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS*

**1 BUILDING YOUR TECHNOLOGY ENVIRONMENT**
January 18, 2006, 9 am to 5 pm.
Discovery Suites,
[illegible] Pasig City
Learn the basics for setting up your network infrastructure, including [illegible] with minimum pain and maximum performance.

**2 KEEPING EVERYBODY CONNECTED**
February 7, 2006, 9 am to 5 pm.
Unit 1102, 88 Corporate Center
[illegible]
Valero Cor. Sedeño St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Wire for wireless your business, link your office PCs together, and keep in touch with your personnel at all times.

**3 USING THE INTERNET TO YOUR ADVANTAGE**
February 22, 2006, 9 am to 5 pm.
Kalayaan Sunset Lounge
Export Bank Plaza, 247 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City
Communicating over the Internet, broadband and online tools, e-commerce opportunities, and what you need to get on the Internet map.

**4 FROM PAPER TO DIGITAL**
March 14, 2006, 9 am to 5 pm.
Reduce your paperwork, get rid of bulky records, and free up your office space by going digital.

**5 BUILDING YOUR MOBILE OFFICE**
March 28, 2006, 9 am to 5 pm.
Make the most of mobile technologies to maximize the productivity of your sales and field personnel outside the office space.

PC Magazine reserves the right to screen the participants for each seminar. Selected participants shall be contacted at least three days before the event and will receive a CONFIRMATION CODE. Only attendees with valid confirmation codes shall be allowed to participate in any seminar. WALK-INS ARE NOT ALLOWED

**Sign up NOW for FREE seminars! Limited slots available! For reservations, please fax this form to 759-2022 to 24 or email details to editors@pcmag.ph**

Name: _____
Age: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____
Position: _____
Contact no.: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Nature of Business: _____

hp invent · MEC · Canon · MICROWEB · ePLDT · brother · QD3 · hip · LEXMARK · MSI · INQUIRER

# Internet fraud

Corporate Securities Info
*Raul J. Valdeviesa*

MORE OVER ENCYCLOPEDIAS, almanacs and other reference materials, the World Wide Web or Internet is now the preferred source of information for those who have access to this gizmo.

The wealth of knowledge available in cyberspace and the speed by which it can be accessed have given this virtual technology an aura of credibility and reliability.

This reputation has not escaped the attention of con artists who devise on the gullibility or carelessness of most people in the handling of their money.

Bullet point operators, or people who call members of companies or securities to the answers and ignorant, have found in the Internet an effective medium to engage in their criminal activities.

For three reasons: day traders, telephone solicitations and fraudsters outlived their usefulness. The "roller IT" mechanism has made tracking and tracing easier telephone calls a lot easier.

Couriers consider no longer accept anonymous requests for delivery of mail or packages. They now require fresh checks to present credible identification papers before they accept their orders.

### Solicitation

With the clever use of computer graphics, sounds and other forms of special effects, scam artists are able to catch the attention of Internet users to flesh illegal wares.

Selling the e-mail address of the potential victims is not a problem because the information is, by a few dollars, available right within the Web itself.

In this light, what is, from the criminal's point of view? Did there is no local or foreign legal regulatory system that monitors and enforces the proper use of typed.

Internet users who get solicitations to buy securities or financial instruments issued by foreign and local companies should bear in mind that the fact that something is being promoted, sold or disseminated through the Internet does not make it more legitimate than any other investments.

To make their pitch more convincing, the scam artists post supposedly recorded messages of well-known personalities, even pose with their trading photos, telling how good the offered security can be and how much they've earned from investing in them.

### Persistence

Another persuasive device used in giving the hell-free number of a "financial counselor or advisor" whom the targeted person can talk to any time at his convenience to answer questions about their investments.

Here's a person who makes the advisor of dialing their number.

If he refuses to succumb to the solicitation, his e-mail address will be bombarded with spam (or unsolicited messages) and his telephone will get innumerable prerecorded and pre-recorded messages urging him to change his mind.

Worse of the targeted party disclosed his address, his mailbox will be filled with letters and flyers exploiting the virtues of investing in the con artists' investment instruments.

With call centers operating all over the world, tracing the identity and location of the perpetrator would be an exercise in futility.

To avoid further aggravation, the victim is forced to change his e-mail address and telephone number. Then, he has to go through the endless process of informing his relatives, friends and clients, if any, about his new numbers.

Caveat

At in all kinds of fraud, the bad guys take advantage of the element of "greed" that is believed to underlie every human being.

The drought of running lots of money, by way of high returns on investments, such the least effort has made some people susceptible to the machinations of clever perpetrators of fraud.

Internet users who may accidentally find themselves in the sales rooms of that kind of con artists should bear in mind the age-old dictum in investment: if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

Before replying to an e-mail solicitation or dialing the number of the suggested financial advisor, it is advisable to download the material first and show it to somebody who is knowledgeable about securities instruments for its review.

If the latter does not find anything wrong with the scheme, fine, go ahead and invest. Otherwise, go back to your computer and delete that spam from your file.

What if caution is one the investment is done by credit card? Once you disclose your credit card number, you open yourself to the possibility of its being "cloned" by computer hackers who buy products through the Internet.

The Internet is a good source of information. But there is no stopping garbage from being uploaded to it and circulated to the unwary.

Caveat emptor. Let the buyer beware. (*For feedback, please write to c-spanish.ba@inquirer.com.ph.*)

New Symantec Bundle – Delivering Security and Backup in One

FREE
Symantec Client Security 3.0 License for 10 users (worth Php 2,877**)!

Purchase the award winning Backup Exec 10d, the gold standard in backup and recovery solution, to enjoy free proactive real-time protection against blended threats with Symantec Client Security

- Backup Exec 10d for Windows Servers with Continuous Protection Server*, and
- Backup Exec 10d for Windows Advanced Open File Option with Continuous Protection Agent*

"Symantec's Backup Exec 10d wins our Editor's Choice award. Thanks to good overall support for file system CDP, excellent backup data management, decent integration with Backup Exec's standard backup functions and an amazing price." – Network Computing Magazine, 2006

Offer is valid from February 10 to March 31, 2006

This introductory offer is available through Symantec's authorized distributor and resellers.
Contact the following authorized distributor or Symantec representative now:

**Wardbert Systems, Inc.**
Rona E. Patong
Tel: (632) 812 7880 Ext 137
Email: rege@wsiphil.com.ph

**Symantec**
Cheng Eu Jin
Tel: (632) 7823 3681
Fax: (632) 7823 2898
Email: eu_jin_cheng@symantec.com

VERITAS
symantec.


# Wedding symposium set

PEDDING GURU BEN MIRU JOY THE WEDDING STORE IS SET TO hold a wedding symposium on March 26, 2006, Sunday, at the 2nd floor of the Orlando Polo Club in Makati.

Joy will conducting the one-day symposium together with the host of the wedding industry's suppliers. Subject matters ranging on how to choose the best suppliers for cakes, flowers, photography, attire, etc. will be discussed by noted experts in their field such as Rajo Laurel, Patrick Ey, Pesh Gidoy, Jun Hen, Dominic Velasco, Ruby Gamboa, Ed Fernando.

Not designed as stypid bridal fair where interaction is limited and restricted, the symposium offers couples the unique experience of being able to interact and discuss with these resource speakers on one and all matters pertaining to preparations for their big day.

Registration is now ongoing. Interested couples can register by calling (632) 895-6844 or 843-3937 or via Email: theweddingstore@yahoo.com. Visit our website: www.theweddingstore.com

Republic of the Philippines
**OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

## BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

**GENERAL SERVICES DIVISION**

1. **ENGINEER III** – Item Nos. OMBA-ENG3-44-2004, OMBA-ENG3-45-2004, OMBA-ENG3-46-2004; SG 11 (2 Positions)
Education: Bachelor's degree in Engineering relevant to the job.
Experience: 3 years of relevant experience. Training: 8 hours of relevant training. Eligibility: RA 1080

2. **ENGINEER IV** – Item No. OMBA-ENG4-47-2004; SG 22
Education: Bachelor's degree in Engineering relevant to the job. Experience: 4 years of relevant experience. Training: 16 hours of relevant training. Eligibility: RA 1080

Applicants should submit within ten (10) calendar days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) TWT (where coloured);
4) "Barangay Ruling or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) "Transcript of Records;
6) "Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7) "Service Records or certificates from previous/present employer stating the position occupied and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable);
8) "Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) "Notarized duly signed by the applicants as in any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

"Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities in the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies.

# BUSINESS Monday

## SM North Edsa: 'Corporate EDSA baby'

EDSA BABIES REFER TO children born during or after the people's revolution that ousted Ferdinand Marcos as president of the Philippines.

"Corporate Edsa babies" are establishments that began operations in 1986. We look back at an establishment that opened its doors almost at the same time as the Edsa revolution, which happened 20 years ago.

SM North Edsa's City Center started operations in its late 1985 amid all the political and economic uncertainties facing the country.

When tycoon Henry Sy bought a huge piece of grassland in Quezon City in the early 1980s and built a mall on it, people thought he had gone mad.

In a speech to members of the Management Association of the Philippines, Sy's daughter, Tessie, said:

"When we constructed our SM mall in North Edsa in 1985, the Philippines was in the midst of a debt moratorium, drastic devaluation, and experiencing hyper inflation. The economy decline was further aggravated by the assassination of Ninoy Aquino.

Many bankers preferred our domino because Henry Sy came from nowhere. He may have had a few department stores and shoe stores, but he was not one of the financial heavyweights at that time.

Deathbed by criticism and armed with sheer determination and optimism, he persisted and opened in 1985 with our department store and supermarket and a few tenants."

Today, nobody can question Henry Sy's decision. From a City Center, SM North has added two more buildings and a new parkbuilding.

"SM, Henry Sy, SM, already had a vision of how that area will develop in the future as the property location is right in front of Edsa, cuts through the intersections of West Avenue and Edsa and is very proximate to Tomorrow, Petrosa, Commonwealth, Diliman which was also standing to boom at that time. As expressed by Mr. Sy, SM North Edsa started the "building phenomenon" and by early 90s, management already completed five expansion for occupancy via SM Carpark Building and the SM Annex to accommodate a bigger number," says Jeffrey C. Lim, VP for Finance and Administration, SM Prime Holdings Inc. By Margie Quiros pm@pdp.ph


EXPORTBANK

1 Deposito Mo MILYON Pang PANALO! Raffle Promo part 2

1st Prize

P100,000

List of winners:

CONGRATULATIONS to all the 2nd RAFFLE DRAW WINNERS!

Be the next Millionaire! Deposit or Open an Exportbank Account now!

EXPORTBANK

Expert banking for the Global Filipino.

Exportbank Drive cor. Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Telephone: (632) 867-9160 • www.exportbank.com.ph

A proud member of BancNet


## *Hotel weathers political and economic turmoil*

By Gwendolina R. Lucero
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY – ON THE WALL OF MARIO Felix Chan's spacious lobby, near the elevator opposite the ground floor check-in counter, are framed messages of three past and present presidents of the country.

"Get Go! Go!" wrote former President Fidel V. Ramos in his trademark handwriting on April 17, 1996, when the 15-storey hotel finally opened after a decade. Its first and foremost claim title of being the city's tallest landmark.

Next to Ramos' handwriting, was another framed message written a year later.

"Here at last and happy!" wrote Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who was at the hotel on Nov. 26, 1996.

"Have checked out": the same again as president on Feb. 22, 2001, a few weeks after the ouster that forced Joseph Estrada out of office.

Former Gov. Aquino drew a row and affixed his signature on a piece of paper. It was dated Feb. 23, 2001, a day after Arroyo's arrival.

Mario Felix Chan, the hotel's owner, grew up in the Hong Kong-based Mario Felix Group in the country through the first on Rafflia Hotel Inc.

It withstood recent political and economic storms, changes of administration and even the most adventurous brand against Mindanao organizations.

Opening a year after the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the hotel continues to stand up against adverse developments like the twin bombings that rocked Davao in 2003 and the Valentine's day bombing two years later.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) said Mario Felix has consistently posted the highest occupancy rate among the hotels of its type in the region.

"Despite its price and larger number of rooms to fill, Mario Felix continued to top in occupancy and average room rate," Art Boncato, Mario Felix sales and marketing director, says.

He adds the hotel has also been posting the highest yield – or income – earned per room – in this part of the country.

Boncato says his job comes to the hotel because of the Mario Felix brand, which is known in Asia, Mario Felix has hotels in Hong Kong, China and Vietnam.

The clients of the Mario Felix officials have been found true by global awards group Virtuoso.

Barring the last three quarters, Boncato enthused, hotels including customers' exciting performance from the time of arrival at the hotel to the quality of room and service and report it as part of the six hotels' quarterly evaluations among the Mario Felix Group of Hotels.

The Epworth survey showed that Mario Felix Davao has consistently made it to the top.

Mario Felix Davao offers 245 rooms, suites and function rooms and other amenities.

On its top two floors, the Continental Club offers the most luxurious accommodations for business executives, offering additional hotel services and facilities with a private lounge.

"So Davao's tallest building, Mario Felix is one of the city's landmarks, a symbol of modern Davao," Boncato said.

According to Boncato, the hotel has been introducing new luxuries to Davao city like the difference food from sale is locals every year.

Currently is hosting the two-week long Culinary Casablanca 2006, which opened last Feb. 9.

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chole Bautista-Fernando
Subeditor/Editor Lisa B. Zalsos

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

# The untold story of 'Geisha'

With the lush adaptation of his best-selling debut novel taking its bow, Arthur Golden describes the odyssey from book to movie

GOING cyclosporasely as excellent geisha Hatsumomo

By Noel S. De Vera

IT IS AN ENDLESS CORRIDOR filled with the clatter of silk kimonos and clogs unfolding like paper fans. "It is an exotic and intriguing world. It's quite beautiful to see," Arthur Golden writes. Though it would be easy to surmise that he is referring to the 1920s Kyoto inhabited by the geisha Sayuri in his novel, "Memoirs of a Geisha," he is actually swooning over the motion-picture adaptation by "Chicago" director Rob Marshall that stars Ziyi Zhang as Sayuri. He shares his excitement and reflects on the journey of "Geisha" from page to screen in this exclusive e-mail interview with the Inquirer.

Originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee, Golden attended Harvard, where he studied art history, particularly Japanese art. He would go on to earn a master's in Japanese history from Columbia. Golden explains that he drew out Sayuri's fascination for Japan mostly from his own keen interest. "I began studying Japan in college originally because I was intrigued by the language," he says. "[It admits that when I was 19 or 20, I went through a brief love affair with Japan, but since then I've been far more of a realist. There are things about Japan I love and things about it that drive me crazy. I would say the same about the United States."

After a brief sojourn in Beijing, Golden moved to Tokyo. There, he met a man whom readers had come to prefer, something he thought would make for a good book. This led to the idea of writing a novel and "Geisha" began to evolve, though the gestation process was more delicate. After three years, he had produced a 750-page draft and sweet words from what he had read in books.

### Interview with a geisha

Late on he was revising this massive draft, he got a call from a friend in Japan who found some geisha for Golden to interview. "As a natural one, the interviews I swallowed with these geisha revolutionized my understand-

[ON PAGE 11]

ZIYI ZHANG as Sayuri, the blue-eyed geisha

JOSE TENCH RUIZ'S retrospective, "BoChiGo (Bago's Dating Game)," will open on Feb. 24 at the SM Art Center (4/L SM Megamall). Presented by the Finale Art Fair, the show covers 20 years of furious creativity in different media (oil and acrylic, ink on paper, sculpture, mixed media and digital format). Grounded by social realism and nourished by self-reflexiveness, Ruiz's work invites a close examination of the world, initially implicating events which then evoke intricate emotions and critical observation of the self. His works show versatility, inventiveness and insight. "BoChiGo" runs until March 12. Call 6345111.

# Hiraya features Indonesia-based Modesto

CLOCKWISE from top left: "Solastic," "An Angel through the Window," "Flowers for Buddha," "Fish Eye"

HIRAYA GALLERY IS EXHIBITING "THE Mystical Places of Modesto" through the last of the romantic works of Fernando Modesto, a Filipino expatriate whose paintings have been featured in major art museums and private collections in Indonesia and Europe.

Based in Indonesia for almost two decades now, Modesto presents his well-styled religious and scientific themes. Every structure or its perceived reality possesses a harmonious coexistence of two forces. The planet Earth is surrounded by heaven, the sea mirrors the sky, trees have great fear angels and soul mates, light finds its end from darkness, hell's evil to love. Modesto calls the forces the bipolar states of reality.

He explores his subject through this thesis. "The Angel Peeping through the Window" shows two worlds: heaven with a huge window and a giant angel looking out to the affairs of man, "The X and Y Intersect" divides the gallery with an angel walking across a flat cable above planets and.

Modesto draws this idea of an imagined world that floats in strange ethereal space where angels romp and play. He uses his birds that within this enclosing space, chase and control oceans.

Modesto works with oil, a widely medium yet perfect for an impressionist artist like him. "By painting, I see a riot of colors," he says. Lemon-yellow lights up his canvases while green soothes his eyes.

"The Mystical Places of Modesto" runs until March 15. Call 5210000.

# Velasco's women, Ortega's bucolics

By Gino Dorotheo
Correspondent

THE LATIS BLOOMING LEONA VELASCO continues to astonish. Her prodigious output in recent years, predominantly paintings of women in various nonfigurative states, radiates a new energy emanating from the source of a bold representative imagination totally enamored with the subject of female sensuality.

In her latest solo show, "At Dream," (G/L, Gallery Joaquin, until Feb. 23), the quantity is a feat difficult to duplicate, considering the artist's advancing age and markedly deteriorating health.

With over 30 works on display, obviously timed to coincide with the opening of the gallery's newly acquired and tastefully refurbished ground level, Velasco has both her old works and new, as proof of the artist's continuing productivity.

A virtual latecomer to the art scene, she had taken up painting to keep her occupied after her retirement. A decision she hasn't regretted as she is now besieged by collectors and gallery owners alike. (There are, to date, a dozen works that have been sold to foreign buyers, which confirms her inclusion at the Sotheby's auction in Singapore this April is no fluke.)

Part of Velasco's enduring charm can be attributed to her innate ability to render the female figure as the embodiment of the woman in her: elusive, guileless and elegance, though the lurid lessons daring a forthright transformation.

Initially perplexing even to the trained eye, the subjects seem to be the composite of East and West, traditional and modern in dress and demeanor, and yet finally emerging a character all her own, with all her vital attributes intact—bouncy chest, broad-shouldered physique and a countenance that is nothing short of alluring, seductive.

This posits a Jungian message of dual personas—half-Eve and half-Madonna—one part is the basic human lot, enmeshed in a gender relationship, and the other a spiritual figure that likewise swims in a sea of all emotion of their role as provider and nurturer of life.

## Ortega's sculptures

A debuting artist in sculpture Jun Ikonito surmounted the overwhelming obstacles posed by his chosen medium, presumably the most difficult to manipulate and wrested simply because of the attendant risks and dangers involved.

With brass, Carlito Ortega has found a material worthy of his great expressions, even if he had to labor in his studio to learn the rudiments of cutting brass sheets, fitting them to fit desired dimensions, and fixing everything to give his figures a lifelike dark aura.

All these he learned via the school of hard knocks, or, more aptly, the barely literate Brasilia torch machine.

A native of Marawing, Bukidnon, where he grew up in the late '50s, when the terrain was still untouched by migrants and landlords, Ortega later went to Cebu for his studies. In time, he found himself being transplanted to San Pablo, Laguna, where he finally settled to raise a family. It is on this sprawling 1½-hectare lot that he built his studio-workshop, he removed from the encumbrances of modern living.

It is while sleeping and dreaming he saw creatures that Ortega finally met kindred designer Pedro Rivera, who urged him to exhibit his works in HIRAYA GALLERY IS EXHIBITING "THE Mystical Places of Modesto" through the last...

"HARIA II," by Lydia Velasco

"MESSIAH II Rabbithen," by Carlito Ortega

her exhibition. To his amazement, buyers came and bought all the pieces on display.

And when Antonio "Tito Al" Salas checked the works, the critic was pleasantly surprised at her discovery. The budding artist was now ready for a solo show.

The show, "Hiding in Apex," (Gallery Antonio, until Feb. 21) assembles Ortega's favorite characters from his long sojourn in Bukidnon: the peasant idols on his cushion, the primeval landscape of mountains and the wicked but young lives, the young boy to slumber dreaming of distant places, and many others permanently lodged in his imagination.

Flown in brass, the pieces have a solid, sturdy, indeed, robust quality in them emanating from the artist's direct contact with the raw ore and enhanced by his native facility with the shapes and measures of rural life he had experienced.

Both men and beast are, in many works, depicted in friendly outrides of strength, speed and stamina, not to mention the youthful daring and the gusto of the human character to taste the animal. On occasion, as in "Sinagpang," the youthful cheering replies Don Quixote's fight with the windmills.

Indeed, in a young rabbit's universe, the quintessential hunter looms large and menacing, flying up Ortega's brass now would of particular achievement and miscalculation.

E-mail the author at gdorotheo@yahoo.com

## VISUAL ARTS

### Religious paintings by Pacheco

THE BLASUS SISSIS Contemplative Nuns of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, and the Italian Federation of the Augustinian Monasteries of Italy will present a series of paintings on the life of St. Augustine by noted Filipino painting expert Rafael Pacheco at Manang Nisa, on Feb. 28. The exhibition will be on display at the Augustinian Monastery of the Mother of Good Counsel, at Camachile Ave., Lunsad B, Barrio Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

### Alvarado at Joaquin

BACOLOD-BASED social realist Ramon Alvarado is featuring in his "Pahanggo" [illegible] at the Dominic Gallery of Fabrein Joaquin Metro [illegible] Gerverra St., corner Mandaluyong [illegible], Addition Hills, San Juan, tel. 7228050 or 7239410. [illegible] Alvarado explores his [illegible] 25 vivid textures 20 [illegible] paintings that still dissecting figure of the peasantry with equal broad strokes and angular lines, Alvarado's empires. Their wide open eyes share intensity of vision.

"FATHER and Child II"

"[illegible] of Pleasure I"

### Children's art contest

THE UNESCO National Commitment Programme is hosting the World Environment Day children's art contest. Entries should be by children 8-14 years old. The seven winners will get a fully-sponsored trip to the World Environment Day celebrations in Algiers, Algeria, on June 5, plus cash. The theme is deserts and desertification. Paintings must be done on either A4 or A3 paper, medium are crayons, colored pencils or watercolor. Entries can be submitted [illegible] or send a mail scanned or regular mail to the [illegible] Deep office in Bangkok [illegible] Buddhaya Hill, Pak [illegible] Thailand 10120. Visit www.unep.org/tunza/paintcomp/3.

"FLOWER Arrangement Against Yellow Wall"

[illegible] Limpo with his painting "Mother and Child on the Terrace"

### Limpo's zodiac art

[illegible] Limpo is holding his 12th solo exhibit, "From Forever to Eng. Year 2006," at Gallery 888 in Mang-La Plaza Mall. The [illegible] assembled mythical supernatural painter has created a collection of colorful and truly auspicious paintings of dogs, roosters, Mother and Child, pigs, [illegible] bats, snakes, rats, the personal artist's favorites — fish and [illegible]. Dogs are shown embracing each other with affection, roosters are crowing out the alert for predators, snakes [illegible] guarding both with intense power.

UNTITLED, by Florencio Concepcion

### Bencab et al. at Crucible

BENCAB'S Dark Room and Femi Kiyanandi present a group exhibit at The Crucible Gallery, 6/F, Building A., SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, until March 5. Call 6338383.

### 3 artists at Avellana

BY [illegible] today at the Avellana Art Gallery are three simultaneous exhibits. Florencio B. Concepcion's "Silver upon a Time" features [illegible] shadows — characterized by bare and [illegible] strokes — of a [illegible] exhibitionary. Lanuzo Cruz unveils lush and realistic life studies of the abyss in "Beyond Words," while Emmanuel Cabrera in "In High Spirits" presents a flurry of motifs, [illegible] elements in cross-pollinated for flight or weightlessness. Avellana Art Gallery is at 3/F, 2600 U.N. Avenue Ext., Pasay City (Manning Silliman Academy). Call 5508301.

"TIGER II"

### Santos at West Gallery

SHIVE Santos will hold "Beyond Words," Feb. 23-March 7, at West Gallery, 4/L, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. A mixture of paintings [illegible] black ink and watercolor will be presented in the exhibit. Call 6341289.

### Del Rosario at Nino, Big

MARIVI del Rosario's new series of darling round-eyed, long-nosed, curvilinear-armed boys and girls, which have earned so [illegible] fans, will [illegible]. In an display at Gallery Nine (Megamall, 6/F, 7238825, and Gallery Big, Ortigas, 6914114). Del Rosario lends a child's wonder-realism with contrasts in line and color, giving a charming twist to romantic themes.

"ANGELS We Have Heard on High"

# Macau's heritage surprise

PATTERNED paving differentiates streets and sidewalks within the city's historic area from the rest of the city.

OLD and new exist side by side in total compatibility without one architectural style grabbing attention from the other.

ART Deco building from the 1930s shows how styles and eras juxtapose harmoniously as architectures of different periods were constructed in the city center.

MODERN addition by architect Cheong Chock Kio shows how old and new are compatible.

CRUMBLE park gets reminds of Macau's colonial background.

HISTORIC Largo Luis Saraiva with restored buildings and decorative paving is where the pulse of Macau is found.

MACAU COMPLETELY SURPRISED a group of architects and students members of the United Architects of the Philippines Makati Chapter who were on an orientation and heritage tour to the neighboring city.

Approaching the city on the drive from the airport, casino structures immediately grab attention. Huge structures compete for patrons, lighting up streets at night to daytime bright glare with numerous Las Vegas-style signage. Macau is, after all, among the gambling capitals of Asia and many Las Vegas casinos are setting up shop there.

The big surprise is that the gilt of Macau casinos does not outshine the charm of the city, a juxtaposition of Chinese and Portuguese colonial structures that follow the rolling of the hills in the city, where narrow streets were opened out to accommodate Columbian boulevards. Reclamation has benefitted the former seaside hamlet as now land pushes the existing shoreline further and further away.

Macau is a small peninsula that includes two islands totaling 25.8 sq km, jutting off the China mass which has tripled from its original size through a constant reclamation program.

Its scattered land size dazzling new structures, the airport... a view tower, many casinos, convention centers, sports complexes, apartments blocks. Nine large-scale construction projects aimed to refurbish old areas, a remarkable move that liberty development pressure from the preserved historic center of Macau that is protected from destruction by self-managed legislation.

What sets Macau apart from all other cities in the region is its fine-grained living interaction between East and West which began with Macau's colonization by the Portuguese in the 16th century. The dialogue continues today despite the former colony's reunification with China.

## Unique

The fusion of cultures developed a unique Macanese image and lifestyle, recognized by Unesco through its 2005 inscription of the Historic Center of Macau on the World Heritage List that cited:

"The Historic Center of Macau includes the oldest Western architectural heritage in Chinese soil today. Together with Macau's traditional Chinese architecture, it stands witness to successful East-West cultural pluralism and to determined resilience.

"The Historic Center of Macau is the product of East-West cultural exchange, constituting the most unique blend of cultural heritage existing in China's historic cities... a complete social infrastructure that has encompassed and maintained the living traditions of different cultures."

In multi-cultural Macau, official languages are Chinese and Portuguese. Of its 450,000 residents, 95 percent are Chinese. Only 5 percent are of Portuguese or European origin. Classical Cantonese, traditional Portuguese, and Patois Chinese-Portuguese-Macanese are the local tongues served at tables.

Its religions are Buddhist, Taoist, Confucian and Roman Catholic. Temples stand side by side with colonial churches while Macanese regularly visit each other's religious festivals.

Within the preserved Nobre Heritage area in the city center is a mini-zone containing a collection of over 20 individual World Heritage monuments linked by a walking path distinctively paved in cream and black stone cobbles set in a striking wave pattern.

Follow the path through the city to get to each of the World Heritage monuments which include colonial architecture (ruins, fortifications, religious buildings, civic buildings, open plazas), Chinese heritage (temples, shops, houses, cemeteries, public gardens, sites-of-five-century architecture.

## Long walk

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F Villalon

Early on a Sunday morning, the UAP Makati architects walked the cobbled path, wended through narrow streets, then up and down hills, and ended with tired but in the best afternoon at the shoreline promenade in front of A-Ma Temple, which legend says existed before Macau came into being.

The architects started out by climbing to the hilltop Macau Museum, built over the ruins of Macau Fort next to the iconic ruins of St. Paul's Church, where Alexina Hevenga, public relations officer of the Macau Government Tourism Office, joined them to provide information on the historical background of Macau.

Cheong Chock Kio, branch of the Cultural Heritage Department of the Macau Cultural Institute, and his colleague Angie Wong, led the UAP delegation through the stunning historic center impeccably restored by their institute.

The Cultural Institute has successfully restored the scented Lord Stanale building, still used as the city's Municipal Chamber building, retaining the old meeting room, elaborate library and garden.

Also restored were surviving parts of the old city walls, Catholic churches from the colonial era, temples, Chinese homes-cum-commercial establishments, and an outstanding series of open public spaces that green the congested city center.

ON TAIPA island is a recreational beach promenade, a rare image of old Macau.

The UAP architects were taken in each site to observe restoration work in progress, introducing also restoration architects to the time-consuming complexity of restoring ancient structures by using original construction techniques and authentic materials.

Macau went beyond providing the UAP group a heritage tour. It charmed everyone and brought back great memories and first hand experience of how the modern and historic worlds blended perfectly, enhancing contemporary lifestyle and giving an identity to Macau that sets it apart from all other cities in the world.

The Macau Government Tourism Office provides visitor information for Macau Intl. ICOPHT). CBD Travel provides air and land arrangements (tel. 4366895 or 4334487).

*Bedford is welcome at philalon@hotmail.com*

8888 168
Toll-free
MARCO POLO PLAZA
Cebu
We welcome your reservations and inquiries.

# The untold story of 'Geisha'

from page 01

ing of the geisha world so completely. I came home and threw away my entire first draft and started over." Its new, flattering heroine, strictly in the story of success, the girl with blue-gray eyes, who would come of age at last.

It would take three more years before the book's second incarnation would emerge. But the publishers found the manuscript quite dull. "Hilariously, I'd felt intimidated at the thought of impressioning a geisha, and I'd chosen to remain overly restrained in writing a novel narrated in the third person. What was more, I'd convinced of the novel as focusing on five years in the life of an adult geisha (Sayuri after World War II, even though most of the drama in her life—I now realized—would have been in her childhood. In the end, I threw away the second draft and started yet again."

It took six years, but he finally finished the novel, but back in print. "Memoirs of a Geisha" came out in 1997. Like the silencing of the shamisen's strings, the novel's music enchanted audiences with its total beauty, selling millions and being translated into over 30 different languages. "Quite astonishing! I can't think of a better answer than that. How soon eight years after the novel's first writer ran, it all seems a little surreal to me."

When work on it and turning his novel into a movie began, Golden made suggestions on his screenplay by Robin Swicord. "I like many of the producers on a western named Lou [Mills], the only person who ever called me a genius." he adds, "and suggested they hire her on a consultant, whatever did."

The cast, including Ken Watanabe (Chairman), Michelle Yeoh (Hatsumomo) and Gong Li (Mameyama), were excellent, he says. "I'm pleased that the book is now known to a wider audience than before." Golden says of the movie's impending opening. "Bad switching the production to it moved along fast process to be quite an education. It's a fun, too, to meet so many talented people and watch them at their worked."

KEN Watanabe (right) plays the Chairman

MICHELLE Yeoh plays Hatsumomo

### Controversial

While "Geisha" beguiled international readers, it has not been free of controversy. Four years a former geisha claiming that the character Sayuri was actually her, an allegation Goldenbloom. "The idea that the book is based on the life of my sexual woman strikes me as puzzling. Real life doesn't matter for fiction. It isn't so neat or clear. Anyone who looks closely at the various controversies in the book—most of which I went to considerable lengths to keep hidden—will see clearly that the character is an invention."

More recently there has been a furor over Chinese actors playing Japanese parts. "I'm not sure what the controversy is about," he states. "Hugh Grant, an Englishman, plays American in all the films. Russell Crowe, an Australian, plays Englishmen. Why is it any different if a Chinese portrays a Japanese, or vice versa? The only important question is was the portrayal convincing?"

Even so he observes the movie's opening on screens worldwide, Golden, who lives in Massachusetts with wife Trudy and two children, is now finishing his next book, "about a young man who starts off in Austen then during the 1850s and 1860s, comes to the US at the age of 17, and ends up a very successful businessman. It's quite a different novel from 'Memoirs of a Geisha,' but told in a similarly cinematic but precise voice."

A capacity for beauty amid adversity and a deep devotion to the past: that is why the geisha endure. "Bystanders gender can sometimes bring it to an end," he says. Then you have to visit mainly because wistful Japanese—just like the wealthy anywhere—still appreciate old-world customs," he explains. It is like remembering Brigadoon in a wonderful, and a quality that, in "Memoirs of a Geisha," at first glance proves forget. "Geisha come to symbolize to non-Japanese. I think, partly because there are few things like them outside Japan."

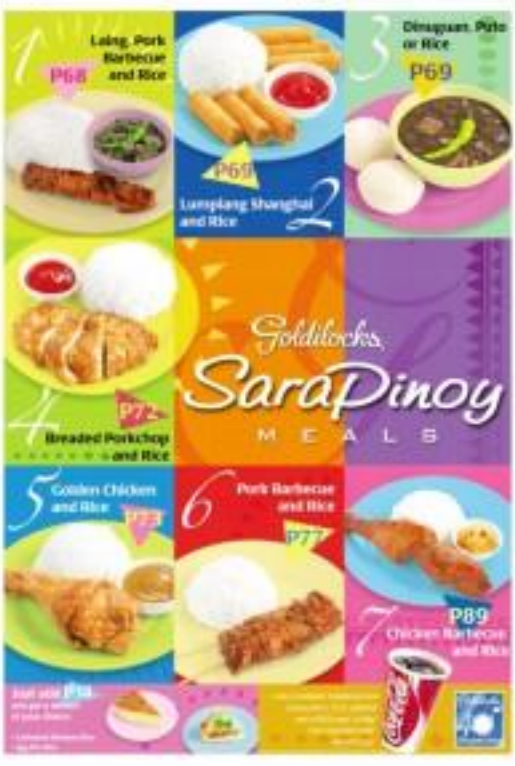
*Columbia Pictures' "Memoirs of a Geisha" opens at theaters tomorrow. Rated PG. JV*

## Trumpets launches Musicademy

AFTER SUCCESSFULLY ESTABlishing Playshop as the leading multimedia summer workshop in the country today, Trumpets now launches an evening arts concept for ancillary education—a year-round music, language and speech school called Musicademy, with Ariel's pop idol, Christian Bautista, as mentor.

Musicademy is located at the S-L Mengo-Le Plaza Mall. Call 6962642.

**Rizal Dairy Farms**
We Deliver Organic Vegetables & Fresh Dairy Products
Tel. # 896-8127 / 896-4779
email : rizaldairy@pacific.net.ph




## *40 years of capturing the true Filipino Taste*

GOLDILOCKS is the Philippines is not just a fairytale character, it is a trusted Pinoy icon deeply ingrained in the Filipino psyche. Now celebrating its fourth decade, it has built up a great deal of loyal customers, and many have been Goldilocks since it was still from children today to their parents who grew up with Goldilocks even to the grandparents who were there from the start. Goldilocks current generations.

Apart from an ever-improving commitment to with extreme satisfaction, Goldilocks continues to develop new products and innovations, keeping it at the forefront of the industry. From an array of delicious cakes, delicious desserts and pastries, the country's number one bakeshop presented the concept of the "celebration cake" which includes toys to figures as part of the decorations. Equipped with the latest technologies and improved standards, Goldilocks thus moved on to add meals and merienda-themed stores to feed their customers' every appetite.

"We have an incredible synergy between our bakeshop and food-shop stores", said Sonny Tiu-Laurel, Goldilocks Marketing Director for Fashion Operations. "A Filipino can have the same affinity and longing for a Goldilocks pastries as they do for our pancit palabok, lumpiang shanghai, or barbeque," the official of Tiu-Laurel Baking Corp. further explained.

Precisely because of this consistent need Filipinos have for Goldilocks' not only as a brand but a Filipino institution by many relishing as they do merienda-time, their popular tagline "Love thoughtful, love Goldilocks" recently evolved to "love thoughtful, love Pinoy". This new tag underscores the emotional bond between Goldilocks, an image in mind the fact that Goldilocks is indeed Pinoy.

"We, women, the strong bond between Goldilocks and the Filipinos, so we make it a point to cater and address to it", continued Ms. Tiu-Laurel. "Our franchisees make the rounds even from the foodstores for traditional Filipino dishes with value-for-money", she explained. SaraPinoy meals include fresh viands or lunch, pork barbecue, and champorado or pares, bundled into affordable and delicious meal combos.

"With such Goldilocks SaraPinoy meal you enjoy, you are not merely getting a scrumptious dish—you get a taste of something truly Pinoy", Ms. Tiu-Laurel concluded.

## *Book club tackles Hornby, Niffeneger novels*

THE POWER BOOK CLUB TACKLED two thought-provoking novels, "A Long Way Down" and "The Time Traveler's Wife," by best-selling authors Nick Hornby and Audrey Niffeneger, respectively, in Power Books Greenhill and Megamall.

Hornby's "A Long Way Down" delved deep into the psychological motivations for four souls who contract just when their flash they've reached the end of the line. Martin, D. Jess and Maureen are four strangers who meet on the roof of a London destination famous for being the last stop for people who want to end their lives.

"The Time Traveler's Wife" by the iconic critically acclaimed Niffeneger is a big, unbox love story that weaves a bizarre flaw in the life of an otherwise normal couple.

"A Long Way Down" will be discussed on Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m., at Powerbooks Greenhill. "The Time Traveler's Wife" will be discussed on Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m., at Power Books Megamall.

As a special treat, the first eight thousand lobbies who are not yet Book Club members, get the featured book for free.

Power Books Specialty Store is at Greenhill 4 (707-7628 to 29), Megamall (635-1699 to 99), Robinsons Galleria (636-0666 to 68), Glorietta (757-1095), Shangri-La (6309823 20) and Robinsons Place Ermita (5233316/5240446).